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Malaysian Official on Christopher's ARF Absence

BK2007101894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 6

[Excerpt] Malaysia yesterday voiced disappointment with the change of US representation at the first broad-based security forum among Asian-Pacific countries on July 25.

"We expected Mr (Warren) Christopher to be here. After all the idea of ARF [ASEAN Regional Forum] (the forum) is strongly welcomed by the U.S., and ARF is what makes the Bangkok meeting historic," said Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Tan Sri Kamil Jaafar.

"ASEAN expected him to come. There is disappointment," he told a briefing last night.

The State Department announced that Secretary of State Christopher would remain in Washington to help in the Jordan-Israel summit on July 25, and that he would be represented by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott at the ASEAN Regional Forum that day.

The Malaysian permanent secretary said: "Whether he comes or not, ASEAN will continue to flourish." [passage omitted]

Thailand Seeks To Organize 'SEA-10' Summit

BK1407155794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] Thailand wants to organise an international conference on the Southeast Asian Ten Nations (SEA10) by the end of this year or early next year in preparation for a summit later on, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday.

The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, scheduled for July 22-23 in Bangkok, will be a historical event as it will be the first time the foreign ministers of ASEAN, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Burma get together, he said.

"During the meeting, the topic of SEA10 is likely to be raised for discussion outside the ASEAN framework on how to enable the other Southeast Asian countries to participate in more activities with the ASEAN states," he said.

Mr Surin made the disclosure at a press conference which was joined by ministry Permanent Secretary Pracha Khunakasem, director-general of ASEAN Department Laksanachanthon Laohaphan, and ministry spokesman Suwit Simasakun.

Mr Surin in late May attended an academic meeting in Manila to mobilise ideas on the SEA10. The meeting issued a "Southeast Asian Vision" which calls for the summit.

ASEAN Officials Express Concern

BK1907094694 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 94 p A5

[Text] Senior ASEAN officials yesterday raised concerns over a possible overlapping in the grouping of ten Southeast Asian countries with the existing six-nation regional association, an informed source said.

They agreed that any further action on the grouping, SEA 10, should be conducted amid careful study. the source said.

Thailand, a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, has initiated the SEA-10 gathering to give the ten Southeast Asian countries the opportunity to meet and solve mutual bilateral and multinational difficulties regardless of political differences.

So far Burma and Cambodia have not joined the six-member ASEAN (Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand) due to their internal political difficulties. Laos and Vietnam have observer status.

"Some officials at the senior officials' meeting raised concern about the SEA 10 initiative because ASEAN is expected to welcome Burma, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam as full members," said the source, who attended the meeting.

The concern was raised yesterday, the first day ASEAN senior officials met in preparation for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on July 22-23.

"The foreign ministers' meeting was originally expected to endorse the initiative, which was already discussed during the informal meeting in Manila in May," he said.

Manila hosted the informal meeting on May 30-31. Thailand was represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan and the director general of the American Affairs Department, Dr. Sarasin Wiraphon. Participants issued a statement entitled "Southeast Asia Beyond the Year 2000".

Surin has said he expected ASEAN to endorse the SEA-10. The grouping will discuss many issues, including environment, drug smuggling and deforestation in member countries, but not politics at the outset.

"The ASEAN foreign ministers are expected to note Thailand's intention to host the first formal meeting of the Southeast Asian countries here in late 1994 or early 1995," the source said.

Document Views SRV, Laos Joining ASEAN

OW1707132094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 17 1994—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) want to admit Vietnam and Laos as full members of the grouping at the ASEAN summit scheduled in Bangkok next year, according to a confidential document.

A preliminary draft joint communique to be issued by ASEAN foreign ministers at the end of their annual meeting here, which will begin on Friday [22 July], says that ASEAN would like to "accelerate" the process of the two countries joining the group.

A copy of the document, obtained by KYODO News Service, said that ASEAN is trying to "accelerate the process so as to enable Laos and Vietnam to join ASEAN as full members at the next heads of government meeting to be held in Bangkok next year."

The document will be discussed and fine-tuned on Monday by ASEAN senior officials who are preparing for the ministerial meeting. It said ASEAN "welcomed the interest by Laos and Vietnam in joining ASEAN, particularly Vietnam's readiness to become a full member of ASEAN as soon as possible."

Informed sources say the emphasis on Vietnam in the document underscores the priority that ASEAN places on Vietnam joining the grouping. They believe there is strong likelihood of Vietnam joining ASEAN ahead of Laos.

The document says that the reason for admitting Laos and Vietnam is their fast growing ties with ASEAN. "There has been an increase in exchanges of visits at the highest levels and between trade and economic delegations." It says that ASEAN would like to encourage greater participation by the two countries in ASEAN meetings and activities. Vietnam and Laos currently attend ASEAN's annual foreign ministers' meeting as observers.

'Academics' Recommendations Noted

OW1507235094 Tokyo KYODO in English 2331 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Bangkok, July 17 [date as received] KYODO—Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] are expected to endorse a proposal to expand membership of their grouping to 10 states when they meet in Bangkok next week.

According to a working draft of the ministers' joint communique, obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the ASEAN ministers commended recommendations to include Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar [Burma] and Laos in the ASEAN grouping.

ASEAN currently groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The ministers are scheduled to issue a communique at the end of their annual meeting in Bangkok from July 22 to 23.

The recommendations, made by academics at a two-day meeting in Manila last May, call for strengthening bilateral relations among Southeast Asian states and encouraging all Southeast Asian states to participate in ASEAN-sponsored or initiated forum as a mechanism for region-wide dialogue on political and security matters.

The recommendations also call for convening regular consultations among all Southeast Asian leaders to strengthen cooperation and set the direction and pace of building a Southeast Asian community.

According to the draft document, the ministers will note "with concern" that despite the overall positive trend toward political dialogue and security cooperation in the region, sources of potential tension continue, from resource competition, territorial disputes and arms proliferation, to such issues as human rights and democratization, environmental degradation and narcotics.

The ministers will deplore the recent coup attempt in Cambodia and express "concern that, in spite of the political developments achieved so far, national unity and peace in Cambodia have not yet been fully realized."

They will also reiterate support for the forum for comprehensive development of Indochina and express conviction that subregional arrangements would help reinforce economic dynamism, trust and interdependence among countries in the region.

The ministers will call upon all parties concerned to complete the repatriation and resettlement of all Indochinese refugees and asylum seekers by December 1995.

They will also welcome progress made in the 3rd round of high-level meetings between the United States and North Korea in Geneva on July 8 and express hope that all countries will continue to work toward a lasting peaceful solution to issues on the Korean peninsula.

The document notes that Thailand intends to host a meeting of the 10 member nations in Bangkok in late 1994 or early 1995.

Thailand Supports SRV Accession to ASEAN

BK1907113794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 94 p A5

[Text] Thailand plans to propose the formation of a working group to help pave the way for Vietnam's membership into ASEAN, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

The foreign minister launched the initiative after ASEAN senior officials laying the groundwork for this weekend's ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), reached an agreement to invite the former ideological foe to become the seventh member of the bloc.

Prasong said he would propose the idea during meetings with his ASEAN counterparts at the AMM.

A time frame for Vietnam's membership is now dependent on Hanoi which has yet to formally indicate when it wishes to join.

The issue will be discussed with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam during the consultative meetings that are held with ASEAN's dialogue partners.

The foreign minister said his proposed group would work closely with the ASEAN General Secretariat which has been studying Vietnam's membership for some time.

Thailand has long been perceived as one of the member countries most resistant to allowing Vietnam to join the bloc and Thai officials were hopeful the plan would help rectify that impression.

Prasong said Brunei, the last country to join ASEAN, could serve as a model for Vietnam's entry.

Don Pramutwinai, director general of the Foreign Ministry's East Asian Affairs Department, said ASEAN is already working on an "easy and quick process" for Vietnam's membership.

The official said the current six member countries have no objection to Vietnam or other Southeast Asian nations such as Burma, Cambodia and Laos joining the association.

But he said there are "practical aspects" that still have to be resolved to facilitate the smooth entrance of Vietnam such as the question of whether Vietnam has sufficient human resources to deal with the welter of meetings held by various ASEAN committees and forums every year.

"We (ASEAN) certainly welcome that. There is no problem in Vietnam joining ASEAN, but in practical terms Vietnam will have to take part in all activities in ASEAN," Don said.

"We have close to 300 meetings per year. Will the new potential members of ASEAN like Vietnam or Laos be able to join all meetings. Do they have the human resources to take part. This is one of the practical reasons. If they can't join the meetings, will the agreements or decisions from those meetings be binding to them," he added.

The director-general said ASEAN members are looking into all practical aspects and "will try to make it easier for Vietnam, Laos or whoever to join ASEAN, including Burma as well, so that the whole operation of ASEAN will run smoothly without disruptions."

He said the financial aspect was not an issue for Vietnam as any potential countries find the US$ 1 million needed to contribute to the ASEAN Fund.

"We want to see Vietnam joining ASEAN with meaning, readiness, and efficiency," he added.

Don admitted that it is possible that ASEAN will admit Vietnam as its member at its summit next year in Bangkok.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Cam will hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from 12 Asian and Western countries who will be here later this week to attend the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and the subsequent Post-Ministerial Conference.

Discusses 'Legal' Compliance

BK2007090594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] Vietnam will have to accede to ASEAN's legal framework before being admitted to the grouping but this will still depend on the six existing member nations, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Suwit Simasakun yesterday.

Mr Suwit said "it's negotiable" what Vietnam will have to accede to before it becomes a full member of ASEAN.

A source said ASEAN had yet to come up with a decision on how to proceed with Vietnam's membership.

Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines are said to favor "admit now and work out the details later" while Thailand and Singapore prefer the "later' option,

Mr Suwit yesterday outlined some of the legal treaties which a prospective member of ASEAN had to accede to during a press briefing at the end of the second day of the ASEAN senior officials' meeting ahead of the 27th ASEAN Ministers' Meeting.

These include the Bangkok Declaration, Bali Treaty, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), and "several other instruments" on the political front.

The economic issues include the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements, ASEAN joint venture projects, ASEAN Food Security Reserve Arrangements and ASEAN Energy Security Cooperation.

Vietnam and Laos acceded to the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 1992. Both obtained observer status after taking the step in Manila.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut said he was coming to this week's meeting with the clear intention of signing the TAC as soon as possible.

"Technical steps must be agreed upon," he said, but "acceptance or the accession of new members is like clapping hands".

Mr Suwit denied they were conditions set by ASEAN.

"These are not measures imposed by ASEAN but it's a fact of life stemming from the growth of ASEAN over the past 27 years. These must be consulted with those interested in joining ASEAN," he said.

"At the moment, those countries who would like to join ASEAN know we have these kinds of arrangements and set-ups.

"If they want to join they will have to try and make sure they can participate in a fruitful manner or else they will not be able to reap the benefits of ASEAN.

"Brunei acceded to all the treaties and it took two years of preparations."

Mr Suwit said the ASEAN ministers due to meet here from 22-23 July will decide on what steps to take and who will be responsible for overseeing these steps—the ASEAN Secretariat, the director-general of ASEAN or the senior officials.

Until a decision can be made and negotiations are held with the Vietnamese authorities, it is impossible to say when Vietnam can join ASEAN officially.

"It would be a little too ambitious to talk about a time frame at this juncture," he said, stressing that "there's a strong intention and strong will for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to join ASEAN".

Tan Sri Kamil Jaffar, the Permanent Secretary of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, said: "The sooner the better.

"It will have to be for Vietnam to decide when it will submit a formal application."

He also said Vietnam had to subscribe to ASEAN's Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and also be able to make financial contributions to the ASEAN Secretariat.

Bangkok's Inviting Burma to ASEAN Viewed

BK1807090194 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jul 94 p A8

[Text] Manila—For Burmese dissidents struggling to restore democracy in their country, the biggest enemy is not just the ruling junta but also the Thai military who they say are doing brisk business with the generals in Rangoon.

Dissidents blame Thailand's generals for the difficulties they have run into in trying to reverse the constructive engagement policy of ASEAN toward Burma.

The dissidents say that while the decision to invite Rangoon to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) this week was a consensus reached by ASEAN, it was Thailand who sold the idea to give the jack-booted regime the veneer of legitimacy it has long awaited.

Sein Win, prime minister of the rebel coalition government of Burma, said in a four-day visit to the Philippines that Thailand's invitation to Burma is misguided.

"The other ASEAN countries are not so happy about the invitation," he said.

Another dissident said Malaysia and Indonesia were indifferent about the issue, but had not made a fuss because Bangkok is hosting the AMM.

"It's not the right time for Thailand to invite the military regime. We would like the ASEAN countries to push the military regime into real reforms. If they get legitimacy they will not reform," Sein Win said.

Asked if Thailand's support for the junta is anchored to "sweetheart deals" between Thai and Burmese generals, Sein Win said, "that is what we suspect."

The push to grant Burma a modicum of legitimacy ran into strong opposition in the Philippines. Senate foreign relations committee Chairman Blas Ople sent a memorandum to Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo urging him to be cautious in dealing with Burma, while the House foreign affairs committee warned against support for the junta.

The dissidents got a warm welcome in Manila and were received sympathetically by former president Corazon Aquino. They also met with top Philippine officials whom they declined to identify.

They warned that conditions in Burma are building up to a point where an explosion of civil unrest may occur and that it would be awkward if ASEAN continues its "constructive engagement" policy toward Burma.

"The ASEAN approach is very very dangerous. ASEAN countries should think of sanctions," Sein Win said.

He discussed offers by Lt Gen Khin Nyunt, the intelligence chief of the infamous State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) for dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, as reported last week by THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Sein Win said Khin Nyunt could have a dialogue "with his prisoner anytime," and it is meaningless to have to offer one. Khin Nyunt had made the same offer when US Congressman Bill Richardson visited Rangoon and met with Suu Kyi earlier this year.

Sein Win noted that although the latest offer had been publicized, no date had been set for the dialogue, indicating that Slorc was merely posturing.

"They should set a date for talks with Aung San Suu Kyi. We would like firm commitments with Than Shwe not a statement from Khin Nyunt," he said. Gen Than Shwe is the chairman of the Slorc.

Another Burmese dissident said that granting the military junta a forum in ASEAN would damage the prestige of the six-nation alliance—prestige which had taken a long time to build.

The Burmese problem has been a long-running sore between ASEAN and its dialogue partners led by the United States.

Washington has long campaigned for political confrontation with Rangoon to isolate it for its rampant violation of human rights and its refusal to recognize the victory of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy in general elections in 1990.

But ASEAN believes it would be better to slowly convince the Burmese junta to gradually open the political system. It is a position Sein Win and other dissidents reject in the belief it will not work and will simply prop up the dictatorship.

ASEAN Officials Draft Nuclear-Free Treaties

BK1907114194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] ASEAN senior officials yesterday discussed efforts toward the establishment of a Southeast Asia Nuclear Free Zone and hope that a treaty on this will be finalised by the group's summit next year.

Three draft treaties have been completed and a number of issues were outstanding, said Don Paramatwinai, director-general of the Thai Foreign Ministry's East Asian Affairs Department.

"Hopefully, this can be finalised by the summit," he said.

Bangkok is due to host the summit next year.

ASEAN had been working toward a Southeast Asia Nuclear Free Zone Treaty for a number of years, Mr Don said.

Negotiations over bases in the Philippines obstructed ASEAN plans to seal the treaty at the summit in Manila in 1987, sources noted.

Current sticking points are believed to include the question of giving free passage to US ships with or without nuclear weapons.

The senior officials preparing for their foreign ministers' gathering later this week also discussed ways of widening adherence to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation [TAC].

The 1976 treaty is the legal basis for ASEAN's long-held goal to establish a Zone of Peace Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and the nuclear-free zone.

Mr Don noted that officials had been entrusted by the 26th ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM) in Singapore last year to look into the possibility of strengthening the treaty by trying to work out the forms in which non-ASEAN countries in Asia and the Pacific could associate themselves to the document.

Senior officials preparing for the 27th AMM opening on Friday also looked at "details" of expanding ASEAN membership.

Mr Don confirmed that this included the question of time frame for Vietnam's full membership.

Vietnam has taken the required first step by acceding to the TAC in 1992, and now holds observer status to the group.

Laos and Papua New Guinea are also ASEAN observers.

Mr Don said there were practical considerations to take into account.

"We have close to 300 meetings a year. Will the new potential members of ASEAN, like Vietnam and Laos, be able to join all meetings. Do they have enough resources and persons?"

ASEAN wanted to ease the process toward membership for all potential candidates, including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Burma, he said.

"We want to make the process more meaningful and efficient," he said.

Separately, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said Thailand's proposal for a Southeast Asian community of 10 (SEA-10) was an attempt to ease the process toward membership of the four non-members.

ASEAN Officials Prepare 'Position' on Cambodia

BK2007104794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jul 94 p A 8

[Text] Asean senior officials are preparing a joint position to be adopted by Asean on the political situation in Cambodia where an unsuccessful coup attempt was launched two weeks ago, Foreign Ministry spokesman Suwit Simasakun said yesterday.

Suwit said the Asean Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) will be briefed on recent developments in Cambodia by senior officials when they meet between July 22-23.

"It is most likely that the foreign ministers will take a joint position on behalf of Asean on the situation in Cambodia," the spokesman said.

Suwit was speaking in a press briefing at the end of the two-day meeting which was attended by high level Asean officials.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said the AMM statement is most likely to focus on the legitimacy of the Cambodian government, which is led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group recently announced the establishment of a provisional government based in the northwestern province of Preah Vihear. The guerrillas named nominal leader Khieu Samphan as their prime minister.

"Asean is aware that peace and stability in Cambodia has a significant effect on the peace and stability of the region," a Thai foreign ministry official said.

Asean has acknowledged that after the UN-organized election in 1992 Cambodia had the legitimate and elected government, but the country has yet to enjoy peace or achieve national reconciliation and rehabilitation.

Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut will attend the AMM as a guest of Thailand, which this year is hosting this year's meeting.

Asean played a leading role in formulating and brokering a peace plan for the war-ravaged country. The pact, which was signed in Paris in 1991 paved the way for $3 billion dollar international peace effort to bring democracy and reconciliation to Cambodia.

Report on ASEAN Standing Committee Meeting

BK2007122294 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Thai foreign minister, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, in his position as chairman of the 27th meeting of the ASEAN Standing Committee, reported on today's meeting of the committee. He said the committee feels that the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting will provide a mechanism for the 18 countries in and out of the region to discuss ways to eliminate disputes and build mutual confidence, which will lead to conduct of diplomacy [words indistinct].

Regarding new members to ASEAN, the committee concluded that acceptance depends on the qualifications of the prospective new member. It must possess political, economic, social, financial, monetary, and manpower readiness. The meeting discussed a clear process to accept new members.

About meeting with dialogue partners, the committee felt that progress has been made in past meetings so cooperation should be expanded. In the upcoming meeting, new areas of cooperation will be considered such as in the environment, science and technology, communication, and manpower development fields. The meeting also agreed to consider suitable types of cooperation with countries seeking to become new dialogue partners.

Concerning agreements with China, the committee agreed to conclude two exchange documents with that country to establish an economic and trade cooperation committee and a committee on science and technology cooperation.

Regarding cooperation within ASEAN, the committee agreed to formulate operational plans on environment, drug control, and cultural and tourism cooperation. The meeting also discussed convening an ASEAN ministerial meeting to discuss issues such as agriculture and science and technology.

The committee also prepared for the establishment of the ASEAN Fund. This involves an agreement to transfer financial reserves for joint use by ASEAN members. The $1 million each country now has set aside for the fund will be transferred to the ASEAN Secretariat. Officials to manage this fund will be recommended and approved by the ASEAN foreign ministers.

Indochinese Cooperation 'Dream', Problems Viewed

BK1407162294 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 13 Jul 94 p 23

[By Christopher Bruton, director of Bangkok-based Dataconsult Ltd.]

[Text] Dreams are the flip side of reality, any hard-nosed politician will tell you.

The dream of an integrated Indochina, or Mekong region, or Continental South-east Asia, has long been around—in fact, much longer than the dream of a United Nations, or European Community, or Asean.

Indeed, former Thai prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan has envisioned turning former "battlefields into market places".

Are they merely dreams or are they the stuff of reality of an integrated Indochina?

The US trade embargoes on Cambodia and Vietnam have been lifted, and Cambodian elections have been held. Only a few lingering problems remain.

These include the alleged liaisons of some highly-placed Thai officials with the Khmer Rouge; an equally unfortunate dislike for Vietnamese among most Khmers, whatever their other political persuasions; political dissensions among Khmer factions; an anxiety among many Lao that Big Brother Thailand may be trying to smother them by largesse.

The higher population density countries—Thailand and Vietnam (with 117 and 231 persons per square km respectively)—sandwich the lower population density countries, Laos and Cambodia (with 19 and 50 persons per square km respectively).

No wonder Laos and Cambodia, even till today, have served as buffer zones and areas of rival domination for Thailand and Vietnam.

The 1970s and 1980s were a period of Vietnamese domination and now Thailand feels that its turn has come to reciprocate, and push the borders of domination back—across Laos and Cambodia to the border land tracks of the Ho Chi Minh Trail of old.

This in a nutshell, portrays the incompatibility which has kept the riparian nations of the Mekong Valley apart and in conflict, and made the mighty Mekong itself a river of sorrow and divisiveness rather than a river of unity and progress.

Despite the issues that divide the riparian nations of the Mekong Valley, big opportunities await them if they could unite.

The United Nations Mekong Committee tried—and failed—in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, to bring them together through projects concentrating on irrigation, navigation and use of the river as an energy source.

The Asian Development Bank has now taken up the challenge with ambitious schemes for the region, backed, at least at the feasibility stage, with solid cash.

The ambitious plan unfurled a year ago includes not just water related-projects, but also roads, railways, bridges, ports, hydro and thermal electricity projects, airports, together with a range of human resource training and administrative programmes.

If the Asian Development Bank dream becomes reality, the Mekong region should hum with activity—firstly in the building of the infrastructure, and subsequently when they are put to use. Bankers at the Asian Development Bank are busy planning roads and railways crisscrossing the subcontinent, linking Yangon [Rangoon] with Bangkok with Phnom Penh with Ho Chi Minh City.

Likewise, one will be able to hop on a train or bus in downtown (hopefully by then less congested) Bangkok, and head for Vientiane en route for Kumming or Hanoi and thence on to Beijing and the Trans-Siberian. Power stations on the Salween, the Mekong or their tributaries, augmented by thermal stations using Vietnamese coal up in Quang Ninh on the Gulf of Tonkin, or Vietnamese oil and gas from the south Con Son basin off the southern coastal resort of Vung Tau, will pump electric power into a transnational grid to fuel industry wherever it may locate.

There are going to be great days on the Mekong—but when? To put together the basic programme, an estimate of US$12 billion has been suggested. Not all the seed money is likely to be found, whether from domestic or international sources, within the six or seven years left within this century. The masterplan to link Myanmar [Burma], Yunnan, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam can be achieved, but it will take well into the next century.

There is simply too much to do, and there are better, more profitable, competing claims for the world's scarce financial resources than to invest in poor little Indochina. Unable to finance projects by fiscal, official direct aid, multilateral or bilateral loans, all of the countries in the sub-region are turning to the magic solution: BOT [Build-Operate-Transfer].

Put simply, this means letting someone else in the private sector foot the bill and join the dream game, hoping to get the money back, plus profit, from usage fees. The Build-Operate-Transfer method really is the answer, provided the project can stand viably on its own feet. How many of these Indochina projects are going to be able to do that? Some certainly will.

Risking a serious shortfall in electricity, Thailand is looking to Laos as a potential provider. Should Thailand be willing to pay realistic prices for electricity, this opportunity will create instant viability for Laotian electricity projects. The Lao peasants may stay in the dark for years yet to come, but their electricity can generate cash for their nation's development from their richer neighbour, and this could happen in the very near future.

Some priority projects, even though not necessarily financially viable, are so vital to economic development, with spin-offs for each of the countries, that international grant aid or soft loans are likely to be, found, somehow from somewhere.

One such is the top priority highway from Thailand's border post at Aranyaprathet, through Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City and on to the oil port of Vung Tau. This road would effectively link Thailand's Eastern Seaboard with the heartland of Vietnam's potential economic progress. Whether viable or not, as a toll-road, the potential benefit to all the countries concerned would be enormous. Such a road simply has to be built.

For Thailand, the development of its neighbouring countries could perpetuate its own economic miracle over the past 30 years, well into the next century. This makes Indochina's development vital for Thailand.

If Mr Chatchai's "battle fields into market places" doctrine rekindles old ambitions of dominating all of Indochina, they will remain just dreams. Apart from Laos, which Thailand considers (unilaterally) as its own backyard, Thailand has never succeeded in establishing much of a foothold on the Indochina road to riches.

Earlier forays into Vietnam earned it a questionable reputation, as a result of get-rich-quick merchants leading the pack. In Cambodia, if anything, the situation was and remains worse, with the added concerns of collusion with the Khmer Rouge on the part of some officials, whether condoned by the Thai government or not. Even the recent abortive coup under Prince Norodom Chakkrapong appears to have enjoyed some Thai backing, or so it is claimed.

Ever the pragmatists, the Thais have realised that they had best concentrate on what they can handle. Vietnam is simply too big a fish to catch.

If anything, with US normalisation and build-up of US and Japanese activity, Thailand can only hope to achieve a fraction of one per cent of Vietnam's investment or trade activity.

Thailand has therefore turned more attention to Laos and Cambodia, while still including Vietnam in its theoretical terms of reference. Thus the revised terms under the Bangkok International Banking Facility, announced in February 1994, allow traders to carry cash up to 500,000 baht [Singapore dollar] (S$30,200) for trade in any of the three Indochina countries.

Multinational corporations have tended to move in the same direction as Thai traders. Most companies now handle either their Vietnam business—or all Indochina operations—out of Singapore or, to a lesser extent, Hongkong. Some, however, are practising divide and rule, pitting Vietnam against Singapore, while leaving Laos and Cambodia with Bangkok.

Not to be outdone, however, Thailand is seeking to amass as much as possible of the affordable activities for Indochina. Thus every effort is being made to turn Bangkok into the hub of tourism for surrounding countries, notwithstanding Thailand's fearful reputation as the Aids capital of Asia.

Ultimately, the whole concept of the Mekong region may well be outdated if the Indochina countries eventually become full members of Asean and Afta [ASEAN Free Trade Area]. Few qualified observers believe that this can happen much before the year 2000.

The Indochina region will offer considerable opportunities for expansion of international roles in finance, trade and investment promotion during, and particularly beyond the present decade.

Singapore and to an extent Malaysia and Indochina are ideally suited to serve as offshore bases and conduits to facilitate this development. It may take a while for the Indochina nations to become development tigers, but increasing attention will be paid to business development there.

Regional centres—especially Singapore—stand to reap substantial benefits as dreams become realities.

Japan

BOJ 'Source' Welcomes U.S. Trade Data for May

OW1907145194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1424 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—A Bank of Japan source said late Tuesday [19 July] that the narrowing of the U.S. Trade decifit with Japan is "a good figure."

The source was asked to comment on the U.S. trade data for May released by the Commerce Department, which showed the U.S. trade deficit with Japan narrowing 19.9 percent from the previous month to 4.39 billion dollars.

But the overall U.S. trade deficit soared to 12.68 billion dollars, the highest level in nearly seven years, due to a surge in imports.

The source said he is not worried so much about the increase in the overall U.S. trade deficit and noted that calm currency market reaction to the latest trade data suggests that currency markets believe the dollar has bottomed out.

The source did not elaborate further.

MITI Official on 'Last-Ditch Efforts' for U.S. Talks

OW2007001594 Tokyo KYODO in English 2355 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Japan and the United States are expected to resume subcabinet-level consultations Monday [25 July] to discuss public-sector procurements in the so-called trade framework talks, a high-ranking Trade Ministry official said Tuesday night.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official, who asked anonymity, said Japanese and U.S. negotiators are making last-ditch efforts to conclude the talks despite a wide gap on issues of transparency in the decision-making process and targets to measure Japan's market-opening efforts.

The U.S. Administration is expected to initiate sanctions against Tokyo this month under a government procurement provision of the 1988 U.S. trade law if no agreement is reached in the talks.

Washington in late June gave Japan an additional month until July 31 to avoid sanctions over the public-sector procurement issue, but another extension of the deadline is unlikely, the official said.

Public-sector procurement in the telecommunications and medical equipment fields is one of the key controversial issues in the framework talks, along with automobiles and auto parts.

Nicaragua Backs Bid for Permanent UNSC Seat

OW1907153694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1505 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal Sanchez on Tuesday [19 July] expressed support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council [UNSC], Foreign Ministry officials said.

"It is fair that Japan desires to secure a seat on the Security Council and Nicaragua will continue to back its bid," Leal was quoted as telling Foreign Minister Yohei Kono at an official dinner at a Tokyo restaurant.

Kono was quoted by the officials as replying, "we will take international support into account when dealing with the issue."

Leal's stated support followed a Japanese pledge earlier in the day to provide 1.56 billion yen in grant-in-aid to Nicaragua to construct bridges and develop water supplies.

Leal also requested that Japan provide official loans to help the Latin American nation deal with its deteriorated balance of payments, they said.

The officials said Kono replied that the government is "considering providing 30 million dollars by the year-end."

The two foreign ministers also agreed that the current standoff over the suspected North Korean nuclear weapons program should be resolved in a peaceful manner, they said.

"It is important that North Korea clear up suspicions over its nuclear program and act as a good member of the international community," Kono was quoted as saying.

Officials To Help Russia on Entry to GATT

OW1907132394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan will send a team of trade officials to Moscow for a week from Thursday to help Russia join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), officials said Tuesday [19 July].

The team will consist of officials in charge of GATT affairs at the three ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, they said.

They will offer advice to Russian officials on how to participate smoothly in the Geneva-based international trade watchdog, they said.

Japan and six other group of seven industrialized nations agreed at their summit meeting in Naples, Italy, earlier this month to support Russia in joining the GATT.

Foreign Minister Kono Cautious About EAEC

OW2007042894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0352 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Yohei Kono on Wednesday [20 July] expressed caution about the creation of the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

In a meeting with Aziz Rafidah, Malaysia's trade minister, Kono said that if the EAEC is launched without first obtaining outside understanding, it will be "less meaningful." The proposed caucus should be well understood by the United States and other countries concerned, he said.

Rafidah made it clear that the group will not develop into an economic bloc as feared by Washington, saying that no southeast Asian nation thinks of anything whatsoever to counter the U.S. Put forward by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed in December 1990, the EAEC is designed to promote economic cooperation in East Asia but excludes the United States.

Ouellet, Kono on 'Vital' PRC Role in DPRK Issue

OW2007061194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and his Canadian counterpart Andre Ouellet agreed Wednesday on the importance of solving through dialogue the question of North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Kono told Ouellet during their 90-minute meeting that Japan strongly hopes for the resumption of negotiations between North Korea and the United States, and the holding of a summit meeting between South and North Korea, so that international suspicions over Pyongyang's nuclear program could be dispelled, they said.

Ouellet reportedly told Kono that Canada considers it important not to isolate North Korea, and that China's role in the issue is vital.

The Canadian foreign minister, who is on a trip to Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand, was quoted as saying he will urge Chinese leaders during his visit there to play a constructive role in persuading North Korea to change its stance.

Ouellet also told Kono that Japan is the most important country for Canada, next to the U.S., and that it wants to strengthen ties with Japan at various levels, the officials said.

Japan is important for Canada, not only because of economic ties but also because the two countries share common goals in the international arena, such as achieving world peace and stability and strengthening assistance to developing countries, Ouellet reportedly said.

Kono told Ouellet Japan wants to continue its cooperation with Canada on the international stage, such as at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, ministry officials said.

Prior to the talks, the two foreign ministers signed a common statement on policy concerning joint production of films, television and video programs between Japan and Canada.

The agreement enables programs jointly made by Japanese and Canadian producers to be regarded as Canadian works which can receive subsidies and other advantages given to domestic productions.

Murayama's Asian Trip To Include SRV

OW2007133694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama will make a weeklong swing of Asian nations starting on Aug. 23 which will include a stopover in Vietnam, government sources said Wednesday [20 Jul].

While in Vietnam, Murayama will vow to provide yen credits to back up Hanoi's "Doi Moi (Innovation)" policy of seeking to promote a market economy under the framework of the socialist government, the sources said.

Murayama's visit to Vietnam will be the first by a Japanese prime minister since the two nations reestablished diplomatic ties in 1973, they said.

Murayama, leader of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], will express Japan's support for ongoing rapprochement in ties between Vietnam and the United States, which lifted its 19-year-old trade embargo against Hanoi on Feb. 3, they said.

On top of Vietnam, Murayama will visit Singapore and the Philippines, they said. One more unspecified country may be included in his itinerary.

Singapore and the Philippines are members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), while Vietnam has observer status in ASEAN.

The Asian trip will mark the first tour of Asian nations by a Japanese premier since January 1993, when then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa made a four-nation tour. Miyazawa's itinerary covered four other ASEAN members—Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

Murayama will express his administration's stance of placing emphasis on its ties with Asian nations, while providing active backing to promote development of ASEAN member states, they said.

While in the Philippines, the premier will brief President Fidel Ramos on Japan's plan to finance "measures that would substitute compensation" to victims of forced prostitution of Asian women and Japan's wartime atrocities, the sources said.

The government is considering financing programs to expedite exchanges of Japanese and Asian youths as well as the study of wartime history, they said.

Murayama will exchange views with Asian leaders on such issues as the Cambodian situation and on how to respond to North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons program, they said.

Brokerage Houses Set Sights on Latin America

OW1907144794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan's "big four" brokerage houses are increasing investments in Latin America where economic reforms are creating new opportunities, industry sources said Tuesday [19 July].

The securities firms, led by Nomura Securities Co., are paying special attention to Mexican markets which have expanded dramatically in recent years following the privatization of previously state-run enterprises, the sources said.

The Mexican Government and major corporations have issued yen- denominated "Samurai" bonds to raise funds in Japan, they said.

Officials at Daiwa Securities Co., one of the big four, said Latin America is emerging as a new potential market next to Asia.

The sources said most Latin American countries faced financial crises after accumulating huge external debts in the 1980's, but that some countries have carried out successful economic reforms and overcome inflation.

The sources cited the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico as one particularly important economic strategy.

In recent days, Japanese brokerages have been investing in Latin American markets, previously dominated by U.S. securities firms, the sources said.

Nomura Securities Co., leader of the big four, was named lead manager for Euroyen bonds issued by Brazil's state-run Telecommunications Corporation, while Nikko Securities Co. won its bid to underwrite Samurai bonds of Mexican banks.

Daiwa now serves as lead manager for Samurai bonds of Mexico's state-run Oil Corporation.

The four brokerage houses said they now are considering opening representative offices in Mexico.

"We will make a formal decision on the matter after scrutinizing deregulation on foreign financial institutions planned by government authorities," said an official of Yamaichi Securities Co., another major Japanese brokerage house.

International competition is expected to intensify on the growing Latin American market, and Japanese brokerages are ready to recruit necessary personnel from U.S. rivals, one of the big four brokerages said.

Tokyo Providing Funds to Foreign Nations

Fund To Eradicate Polio in PRC

OW2007045594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Japan pledged Wednesday [20 July] to extend up to 202 million yen to China to cooperate in its project to eradicate polio, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japanese and Chinese Government officials signed a document on the assistance in Beijing, the ministry said. The aid will be used to buy polio vaccine in six Chinese provinces, it said.

The Chinese Government has drawn up an action plan to eradicate polio by 1995 in line with a plan by the World Health Organization to eradicate polio throughout Asia by the same year. Although 208 million doses of polio vaccine are needed nationwide, the Chinese Government cannot supply 93 million doses and has asked other countries for assistance, the ministry said.

Loans, Grants to Philippines

OW1507043294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 15 KYODO—Japan will loan the Philippines up to 11.43 billion yen to support an electrification project and grant another 10.8 billion yen for five other projects, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] said Friday [15 July].

Japan will also extend the Philippines 41 million yen in cultural aid grants to help its national university purchase audiovisual equipment and equipment for scientific experiments, the ministry said.

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Yoshifumi Matsuda and Roberto Romulo, the Philippines' secretary of foreign affairs, exchanged documents on the yen loan and the grant in Manila, it said.

The 11.43 billion yen loan will be extended to help a project to strengthen facilities supplying electricity to 45 areas in Manila and its suburbs.

The 30-year loan has a 10-year grace period and carries an annual interest of 3 percent.

The 10.8 billion yen in grant money include 3.4 billion yen to renovate a water treatment plant that handles 60 percent of Manila's water supply, and 1.5 billion yen to repair a typhoon-damaged water supply system on Leyete Island in the central Philippines.

Also included are 2.8 billion yen for a project to build 117 schools in Bicol and Mindanao regions, 2.1 billion yen for an agricultural development project and 591 million yen to rehabilitate irrigation systems.

Japan will also extend 265 million yen to build facilities to supply water for people living in the resettlement areas of Mt. Pinatubo, which erupted in 1991 for the first time in 611 years.

1.56 Billion Yen to Nicaragua

OW1907135294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0953 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan pledged Tuesday [19 July] to give Nicaragua up to 1.56 billion yen in grant-in-aid to help the Central American nation's projects to construct bridges and develop underground water supplies, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and his Nicaraguan counterpart Ernesto Jose Leal Sanchez signed documents on the aid in Tokyo the same day.

Of the total aid, 987 million yen will be for a project to rebuild four bridges between Nejapa and Izapa in western Nicaragua which have become old and decrepit.

Another 576 million yen will be provided to build 12 deep wells in a plateau in the suburbs of the capital city of Managua to supply drinking water to some 100,000 people.

Japan also pledged to extend Nicaragua a cultural grant-in-aid of up to 49 million yen to help its government purchase equipment for physical education.

Leal, 47, is on a six-day visit to Japan from Saturday through Thursday. He is the first Nicaraguan foreign minister to visit Japan.

Limited ODA to Burma Sought

OW1907142394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0921 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Supporters of Myanmar [Burma] opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi rallied past the Myanmar Embassy on Tuesday [19 July], one day before she completes her fifth year of house arrest.

The group called for Suu Kyi's release and protested the presence of the Myanmar junta at a ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Bangkok starting Friday.

They also called on Japan to curb investment and aid to Myanmar.

The chairman of the Burma Youth Volunteer Association, Khin Maung Zaw, said similar rallies will take place in capitals around the world to urge governments and businesses to support democracy in Myanmar.

A statement, issued Tuesday by three Myanmar dissident groups, called on ASEAN to abandon its policy of "constructive engagement, which,...constitutes interference in the internal affairs of Burma."

It called on Japan's Foreign Ministry and the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) to face the truth about Japanese investment and official development assistance (ODA) to Myanmar, which the dissidents said are "destroying rather than developing the country."

The dissidents' groups alleged that a gas pipeline, to be used by Nippon Oil Co., is being built by slave labor, and the Salween dam project funded by Japanese ODA "will flush out the Karen minority and pro-democracy activists at the border and destroy thousands of hectares of forest."

Pakistan: 4.2 Billion Yen for Debts

OW2007105494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Japan pledged Wednesday [20 Jul] to extend a grant worth 4.26 billion yen to Pakistan as a debt relief measure and to help finance five projects, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Kunio Muraoka and Aftab Ahmad Khan, secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Finance Revenue and Economic Affairs [name as received], signed documents on the assistance in Islamabad, the ministry said.

Of the aid, 108 million yen will cover debts for which repayment fell due in the latter half of fiscal 1993 but on which capital and rescheduled interest have not yet been paid.

The package also includes a total of 4.15 billion yen to help finance five projects in North West Frontier Province and Punjab Province.

Of the assistance, 1.41 billion yen will be extended to build 30 elementary schools and 857 million yen to establish a training college for female teachers and purchase educational equipment in the North West Frontier Province.

Tokyo will extend 897 million yen to improve medical equipment, 529 million yen to build bridges in the province and 456 million yen for watershed management and irrigation development in Mithawan, Punjab Province.

Panel To Propose Mulitilateral Security

OW2007093894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—A government panel will advocate a multilateral and cooperative security policy supported by a compact but highly effective military machine, panel officials said Wednesday [20 Jul].

The Defense Policy Advisory Panel, which held its 18th meeting on the same day, drew up a rough draft for its report to be submitted to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama next month.

The draft report recommends the government should seek both "multilateral security" on the U.S. initiative and "cooperative security" in coordination with the United Nations, the officials said.

It calls on the government to build up "functional and constructive" security policy in line with the two principles.

For Japan's defense forces, the report proposes curtailing the number of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel, while updating weapons according to the technological advances.

Noting the diminishing threats of large-scale military conflicts following the end of the Cold War, the report stresses the importance of establishing "compact and multifunctional" defense forces.

The report argues Japan should enhance security cooperation with the United States, but added Japan should also try to diversify its security relations and boost the "transparency of military power."

In this light, it advocates joint military training with Russia and China and the opening of military facilities to the public.

Military Forces 'Do Not Violate' Constitution

OW2007052694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0516 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Wednesday Japan's Military Forces do not violate the war-renouncing Constitution, adding the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) is what the basic law allows.

Murayama made the remark in answering questions of former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata during a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

His remark contradicts a longstanding policy of the premier's Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan SDPJ] that the SDF violate the Constitution.

The Constitution says the nation renounces the use or threat of force to settle international disputes and it will never maintain land, sea or air forces, or other war potential.

Murayama said, "I recognize that the SDF, which sticks to exclusive defense and is an organization with minimum (forces) for defense, is constitutional."

It is the first time for a leader of the SDP to formally endorse the SDF as constitutional. On the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Murayama also pledged to observe the duties of the arrangement.

Since late last week, the SDP has begun to revise its stand that the SDF exists in violation of the constitution. SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo earlier said the prime minister is the supreme commander of the SDF comprising the ground, air and maritime self- defense forces, and the premier cannot fulfill his duties if he believes the forces violate the constitution. Previous governments said the SDF is in the realm of the constitution.

Murayama May Change Party's Nuclear Policy

OW2007134394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Wednesday [20 Jul] suggested that he may abandon his party's official policy and approve the construction of new nuclear power plants.

Murayama hinted in interviews with reporters that a tight balance in electricity supply and demand might force him to give the go-ahead to new nuclear power stations.

"We will have to make a judgment in light of the demand for electricity in the future," he said.

"A solid ideal is important, but we need to be flexible in making a policy, taking account of the public views."

The Social Democratic Party [of Japan], which Murayama heads, is opposed to the construction of new nuclear plants, while supporting the continued operation of existing ones.

Hata To Criticize Ruling Parties' Alliance

OW2007042794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0320 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata will criticize an "unprincipled alliance" of ruling parties under Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in a plenary session of the House of Representatives beginning Wednesday [20 July] afternoon, political sources said.

The sources said that during the session, the first Diet debate since the Murayama government came to power in late June, several lower house members will carry out interpellations in response to Murayama's policy speech on Monday. Hata will rap Murayama for recklessly forming his coalition government of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ], the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and new party Sakigake without discussing policies, they said.

Murayama suggested Tuesday he may plainly say Japan's military forces do not violate the war-renouncing constitution when he gives answers to the Diet interpellations. Hata will question when and why his pacifist SDP changed its stance to endorse the legitimacy of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, the sources said. Murayama said Monday he is pressing his party to change its long-standing position that the forces violate the constitution.

Also, Hata will ask Murayama whether he officially endorses Japan's de facto national flag and national anthem as the real national flag and national anthem, they said. There has been criticism at home and abroad about officially endorsing them, because they were used as tools of Japan's invasion of Asian countries before and during World War II.

Hata, head of opposition Shinseito, the core party in the former government he led between April and June this year, gave up power late June and surrendered it to Murayama.

LDP Deputy President Keizo Obuchi and Koshiro Ishida, chairman of opposition Komeito will also interpellate Wednesday. The current extraordinary Diet session ends Friday.

Steel, Paper Industries To Stop Donations

OW2007115894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—The steel and paper industries will halt political donations to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), while the shipbuilding industry is considering the move, industry officials said Wednesday [20 Jul].

The steps are the latest in a series of similar ones by some industry groups, including the Japan Chemical Industry Association, against the backdrop of uncertain politics.

"We did not set aside (political donations) in this fiscal year's budget," Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, said at a press conference.

"To date we have been in a position to defend the LDP against the Social Democratic Party [of Japan, SDPJ] by making political donations, but now we feel that policy is unreasonable," Saito said.

"We have not understood fully the ruling coalition's policies," he said, in reference to socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's government involving the LDP, the SDPJ's longtime archrival.

The steel industry so far has provided some 100 million yen yearly to the LDP and the DSP.

Takeshiro Miyashita, chairman of the Japan Paper Association, cited the uncertain political outlook as a factor behind his association's decision to stop such donations.

"We have lost a good reason to make political donations to defend the system of the free economy," Miyashita said at a separate press conference.

Meanwhile, the Shipbuilders Association of Japan, which groups major shipbuidlers, is considering halting donations.

Shigeru Goda, chairman of the association, cited uncertanties surrounding politics as a key factor behind the move.

"We are not sure how to form our view about any party at a time when things happen, such as an opposition party becoming a ruling party," he said.

Goda also pointed to the need for businesses to trim expenses during the economic slump.

Most LDP Local Leaders Back Alliance With SDPJ

OW1907145494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1330 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership on Tuesday [19 July] heard mostly supportive responses from the party's local delegations about the alliance with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan, SDPJ].

LDP President Yohei Kono, who is deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the cabinet of socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, sought backing for the party's alliance with its traditional foe during a meeting of LDP local representatives.

"We opted for a way to bring the political confusion to an end and create a stable government," Kono said, although a large compromise was demanded.

"Our decision may go down in the party history as a large stain. But we could not let the former government, which was so incompetent in handling the economy and other issues, to remain in office."

Last month, the LDP linked up with the SDP and new party Sakigake [Harbinger], a splinter party from the LDP, to form a coalition government, which replaced the minority government of Murayama's predecessor Tsutomu Hata, who resigned to avoid being felled by a no-confidence vote.

At the Tuesday meeting, a leader of the LDP's Gifu branch criticized the tie-up with its long-standing ideological enemy, saying "policy is the party's life and soul."

But a majority of the local chiefs hailed the move. A representative from Yamagata Prefecture called it a "historical decision," while a participant from Kumamoto Prefecture said, "let us see the party prove its competence in ruling the country."

"It seems our position is gaining support as time goes by," said Yoshiro Mori, party secretary general.

Vice President Keizo Obuchi said the party will consider joint election campaigns with the SDP on a case-by-case basis, calling the alliance "competitive coexistence."

Rengo Launches Policy Forum With Diet Members

OW1907144894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan's giant trade union umbrella organization Tuesday [19 July] launched a policy discussion forum with more than a third of all lawmakers from both chambers of parliament.

The new forum by the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) is part of its efforts to redefine its own political posture, which has been shaken by the ongoing realignment on the political scene, Rengo officials said.

Responding to Rengo's call, 274 members from both houses of the Diet, excluding those from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), joined the new body.

"I hope it will indicate a direction for Rengo's political activities in relation with its labor movements toward the 21st century," Akira Yamagishi, president of the eight million-strong organization, told an inauguration ceremony.

Dietmen Discuss Policies, Tax Reform, Yen

OW1907141894

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 17 July, during its regularly scheduled "Sunday Discussion" program, carries a 75-minute roundtable discussion on the Murayama administration's policies, tax reform, Japan's responsibility for its actions during World War II, the yen's appreciation, and the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Participants in the roundtable discussion are: Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ); Shigeru Kasuya, acting secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP); Kozo Watanabe, acting secretary general of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party); Yukio Hatoyama, secretary general of Sakigake (Harbinger); Komeito Secretary General Takenori Kanzaki; Kazuo Shii, secretary general of the Japan Communist Party; and Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi. It is conducted in NHK's Tokyo studio and is moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and guest commentator Naoki Tanaka.

At 0002 GMT, participants start discussing the policies of the Murayama administration. When asked about Prime Minister Murayama's first policy speech, Igarashi says that Murayama will clearly indicate his government's direction in a policy speech to be delivered on 18 July. In noting policy differences between the LDP and the SDPJ, Watanabe states that the administration should clarify its policies and tackle such issues as the appreciation of the yen and the DPRK nuclear issue while keeping people-oriented politics in mind. Watanabe and Kanzaki demand that the ruling parties convene a Budget Committee session to explain how the administration intends to deal with pending issues. Touching on criticism that the LDP, the SDPJ, and Sakigake formed the Murayama administration without any policy accord, Kubo says: "The election to choose the prime minister was held under a situation in which only the SDPJ and Sakigake reached an accord on policies. In the election, SDPJ Chairman Murayama obtained a majority of votes to become the prime minister. After he was designated prime minister, the parties that voted for Mr. Murayama consented to our policy platform, and then the coalition administration was formed. We have to make that clear." In explaining the new administration's policies, Kubo reiterates that a policy accord has been reached between the SDPJ and the LDP. Stating that the Murayama administration is a stable administration which has a majority in the Diet, Kasuya says that the administration intends to continue previous governments' diplomatic and domestic policies.

At 0020 GMT, Yamamoto asks Igarashi about the issue of cabinet members' official visits to the Shinto Yasukuni Shrine, a memorial to Japan's war dead, on 15 August, which is the day for marking the end of World War II. Reviewing past governments' stand on this issue, Igarashi states: "The prime minister will not make an official visit to the Yasukuni Shrine. As a matter of course, I, as chief cabinet secretary, will follow his decision." He adds: "Considering neighboring countries' sentiments [concerning Japan's wartime actions], an official visit by the prime minister would not be viewed favorably. I would like each cabinet member to consider this point."

The participants then discuss Japan's responsibility for its actions during World War II and the government's stand on this issue. When asked about the government's view on this subject, Igarashi replies: "Since the end of the war, Japan has been deeply engaged in soul-searching about the war. Japan has been making efforts to construct a new state based on the pledge not to repeat its acts of aggression during the war. I think that such an understanding is appropriate."

At 0037 GMT, Yamamoto changes the subject to concrete government tasks by asking Kubo about the Murayama administration's stand on tax reform. In noting there are conflicting opinions on tax increases and cuts, Kubo asserts that a conclusion should be reached on tax reform by the end of this year after considering various factors such as economic trends and a reform of the revenue and spending system. Hatoyama then says that the government needs to appeal to the public concerning its intention to tackle administrative and fiscal reform before tackling tax reform. Tanaka emphasizes the need for the ruling parties to immediately indicate a concrete blueprint for spending cuts. Discussing the current taxation system, Kasuya says he believes that the LDP, the SDPJ, and Sakigake are working out final details on tax reform.

Watanabe then calls on the ruling parties to tackle the tax issue seriously and positively. Asked about the possibility that the government will deal with tax cuts and tax increases in separate bills, Igarashi says that the ruling parties will start full-fledged discussions on this issue next week. He adds that the government is determined to tackle tax reform by considering various opinions, including Tanaka's ideas.

Yamamoto asks Igarashi whether a cabinet meeting on the yen's appreciation which is to be held soon will discuss measures to stabilize foreign exchange rates and economic stimulus measures at the same time. Igarashi answers: "It is very serious problem. At long last, we see a bright sign concerning the economy as a whole. There is an increase in personal consumption and steady progress in housing construction and public works projects. Under such circumstances, the foreign exchange rate issue has become more serious. We are really concerned about this." In reviewing the Naples G-7 summit, he mentions the G-7's agreement that the further decline of the U.S. dollar is undesirable and says: "Japan, for its part, needs to make the utmost efforts to deal with this [appreciation of the yen]. However, as you know, the issue cannot be solved quickly simply with easy tricks. Japan has to think of how to change the fundamental economic structure, how to deal with Japan's surplus, and how to promote an open [economic] system. We discussed many problems such as tax reform and increasing public works projects. [The government] needs to settle these issues as soon as possible and to make its stand clear. I think this is the basic approach [to deal with the yen's appreciation]. At the same time, I think that the United States also needs to make efforts. While cooperating with other nations, Japan has to make the utmost efforts."

In citing problems with the current public works system, Tanaka points out that the per unit cost for government-ordered public works projects is very high. Shii agrees with Tanaka. In response, Igarashi claims that the government is making efforts to review the current public works system and notes that the government presented an action program on the bidding system for public works late last year.

Stating that the yen's appreciation is a very serious problem, Kanzaki calls on the government to take every possible measure to deal with the situation through the expansion of Japan's domestic demand and additional deregulation efforts. He adds that coordinated efforts by the G-7 nations are necessary to correct the current weak dollar.

The participants then discuss the bill on electoral redistricting for the House of Representatives. Watanabe expresses the hope that the Diet will enact the bill in an extraordinary session this fall.

Returning to the yen's appreciation, Watanabe says that the government should take steady measures to deal with the strong yen. He also calls on the government to carry out tax reform, improve the social infrastructure, and take steps to make the Japanese-U.S. economic framework talks a success.

At 0111 GMT, after being asked by Yamamoto about the postponement of Kim Il-song's funeral ceremony, Igarashi says: "Although many rumors have been reported, [the transition of power in the DPRK] is taking place peacefully, according to all information that we have received so far." Yamamoto then states that there is no change in Prime Minister Murayama's plan to visit South Korea beginning 23 July. Igarashi adds: "Because the ROK is the country [geographically] closest to Japan and because we are both facing the [DPRK nuclear] issue, I think it is very important for the leaders of the two countries to exchange views and to grow to understand each other as soon as possible. Therefore, I hope that the prime minister will visit South Korea as scheduled."

When asked about the future course of the SDPJ, Kubo emphasizes that the party wants to respect the Japanese Constitution. On the question of whether or not the Self-Defense Forces are constitutional, he says, "It is necessary to handle the issue from the standpoint of promoting disarmament while following the international trend toward disarmament."

The roundtable discussion concludes at 0115 GMT.

First Female Nominated as Culture Agency Chief

OW1907140694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Education Ministry official Atsuko Toyama said Tuesday [19 July] she hopes her nomination as the first female director general of the Agency for Cultural Affairs will lead to more opportunities for women in government.

Toyama, who currently serves as the head of the ministry's higher education bureau, told reporters, "I feel the importance of responsibility (of this position) as culture will be very important to Japan in the future."

Toyama, 55, entered the ministry as the first female career official in 1961 after graduating from the University of Tokyo's Law Department.

Looking back her early days in the job, she said other male officials "seemed to be perplexed to accept her as the first (female official)."

"But, I have been treated with openness and fairness as a worker so that I could come to this (new post)," she said.

Asked to comment on the increasing number of women in high-level government ministry and agency positions, Toyama said women today are more confident in their abilities.

"There are many skillful women with various abilities," Toyama said. "It is important to give chances to these people."

30 billion Yen Budget Sought for Telecom Networks

OW2007063894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0308 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry will seek 30 billion yen in allocations in the fiscal 1995 budget for establishing next-generation telecommunications networks in Japan, ministry sources said Wednesday [20 July]. But the Finance Ministry, which holds the purse strings, is likely to resist the request, they said.

The posts ministry will ask for a "special category" of 30 billion yen for creating a better telecommunications infrastructure when it submits budgetary requests to the Finance Ministry next month, the sources said.

The posts ministry has been allotted only 43 billion yen in the current fiscal year's budget, because of the ceiling the finance ministry imposes on expenditures by each ministry as part of its austere policy.

As long as the ceiling is maintained, it will be difficult for the posts ministry to obtain a budget for the project to cover the country with optical fiber networks by 2010 and other schemes. Therefore, the ministry has decided to request the funds under the special category like defense and Official Development Assistance (ODA) spendings, the sources said.

The ministry plans to use the 30 billion yen to provide interest- free loans to telecom firms and cable television operators willing to build optical fiber networks and to develop software needed for the coming multimedia age, they said.

Takemura Negative on Special Budget Allocations

OW2007104994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura on Wednesday [20 Jul] took a negative stance on special budget allocations for fiscal 1995 starting next April.

Takemura told reporters that allowing special allocations will send the entire budgeting process "out of control."

He noted the importance of "scrap and build" in drawing up the budget, saying the nation's finance cannot afford simple additions.

When asked about special consideration for farmers in light of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the global trade treaty, under which Japan must lift its long-time ban on rice imports, Takemura said the government should listen to forward-looking views.

Takemura said the government should make every effort not to issue deficit-covering bonds, which are the last resort in case of emergency.

Turning to the currency market, Takemura said he cannot predict the outlook of the yen's movements with confidence because foreign exchange rates are moving in worldwide markets.

Tax Cuts May Require Deficit-Covering Bonds

OW1707123894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Otsu, Japan, July 17 KYODO—Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said Sunday [17 July] it may be "unavoidable" for the government to issue deficit-covering bonds to finance multiyear income tax cuts.

Mori, who delivered a lecture the same day in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, told reporters he was opposed to the simultaneous discussion of income tax cuts and a hiking of the consumption tax. He stressed discussion on tax cuts should be preceded as measures to stimulate the economy.

As for the fund to finance tax cuts, Mori said tax revenues may be increased if the economy recovers. He said that in case such an increase in tax revenue cannot finance tax cuts, deficit-covering bonds would be "unavoidable."

The LDP's two ruling coalition partners, Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ] and new party Sakigake, are scheduled to start discussions with the LDP over the taxation system from this week.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi has said it is natural to discuss tax cuts together with a tax hike. The administration led by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, SDP chairman, has scrapped the previous government's pledge to come to agreement by the end of the year over a consumption tax hike.

Reports on Issues Reflecting Economic Status

BOJ: Slow, Sure Recovery

OW2007121694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 20 KYODO—Japan's economy is on a path of recovery with little possibility of backpedaling again, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said Wednesday [20 Jul] in a bullish report signaling its confidence in recent economic data.

"The possibility is low that the economy will go backward again, but it is highly possible the tempo of recovery will be gradual and slower than the past phases of recovery," the cental bank report said.

The report's wording is more bullish than recent remarks by bank officials and BOJ Gov. Yasushi Mieno, who said it is highly possible the economy has taken a step toward recovery.

The report comes against the backdrop of brighter signs in exports and consumer spending on home electric appliances and autos.

The central bank said consumer spending "as a whole has been slowly underpinned" and forecast industrial production will pick up in the July-September quarter for the third straight quarter.

As for firms' capital spending, the bank said corporate investment in plant and equipment will likely bottom out in the second half of the current fiscal year ending in March.

Consumer spending and capital spending are viewed as the twin main dynamos of growth, and economists say recovery of capital spending is a key to a full-fledged recovery.

Analyzing the yen's latest advance that saw the dollar fall below 100 yen, the bank described it as "an uncertain factor" but noted its impact has been weaker than the yen's rally last year.

The bank cited the slower pace of the yen's advance and corporate efforts to tackle the surge as factors behind the optimistic assessment.

In the report, the bank forecast growth in money supply will remain slow in the July-September quarter due to sluggish corporate demand for funds for business investment.

The broadly defined money supply—M2 (cash in circulation plus time and demand deposits) plus certificates of deposit—is projected to grow at an average pace of around 1 percent from a year earlier, it said.

The broadly defined money supply grew at an average pace of 1.8 percent in the April-June quarter.

MOF: 1 Percent Growth for FY 1994

OW1907144694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—A group affiliated with the Ministry of Finance [MOF] predicted on Tuesday [19 July] that Japan's economy will start picking up in the latter half of fiscal 1994, boosting its gross domestic product for the whole year by 1.0 percent following a 0.1 percent rise in the year before.

The Japan Center for International Finance said the U.S. economy which has begun to pick up ahead of other countries will register a 3.7 percent growth rate on top of a 3.0 percent rise in the preceding year.

In the European Union, it said the economies in Germany and France, which shrank 1.2 percent and 0.9 percent respectively in the previous year, will grow 1.5 percent and 1.7 percent, backed by steady external demand.

The economy in the whole of the union will be put on a recovery track, the center said.

Among developing nations, Asia will post a 7.6 percent expansion, backed by steady exports and inflow of capital from industrial countries, it said.

Particularly, it said, the Chinese economy will surge a hefty 11.5 percent, posting the third straight double-digit rise, with the inflation rate hitting a high 16.0 percent.

In Eastern Europe, where the effects of economic reforms are prominent, the region's economy will expand 1.3 percent although that of the former Soviet Union will remain flagging, posting an 11.0 percent decline, the center said.

The center said Japan's imports will outpace its economic growth rate, trimming its current account surplus to 129 billion dollars from 131.40 billion dollars in fiscal 1993.

Yen Not Hurting Stock Prices

OW1907135394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The chief of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) said Tuesday [19 July] the recent surge of the yen has caused little damage to the stock market.

TSE President Mitsuhide Yamaguchi told a press conference that the market has been reacting to the yen's rise "cool-headedly" and moving "firmly."

Against the backdrop of Japan's huge current account surplus with the United States, the yen has pierced the psychological barrier of the 100 yen line against the dollar and stayed there for a few weeks.

On the securities transaction tax, Yamaguchi said the securities industry will continue to call for scrapping of the tax, charged on sellers of securities, to make the Japanese market more appealing both to domestic and overseas investors.

He also said the TSE has been working hard to ensure a smooth listing of Japan Tobacco Inc. stock, slated for October, by introducing more advanced computer systems and taking other steps.

JT, the former government monopoly, plans to go public this fall after years of delay, with one-third of the outstanding two million shares currently held by the government to be sold.

Business Leaders, Komura on Economy

OW1807043394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—A major business lobby urged the government Monday [18 July] to rein in the high-flying yen, bring down inflated prices in the country, and set targets to chip away at the country's chronic current account surplus.

The officials of the Japan Federation of Employers' Association (Nikkeiren) filed the request during a meeting with Masahiko Komura, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA).

Komura agreed with Nikkeiren officials that prices in the country, which the top government economic planner said remain higher than international levels, should be cut to improve living standards in Japan.

But the EPA chief was opposed to the Nikkeiren idea of reducing Japan's current account surplus to the equivalent of 2 percent of the country's gross national product (GNP) or less, as means of stemming a further rise in the yen's value.

"Setting such a target could be received as an international commitment," he was quoted as saying.

MITI's International Silicon Wafer Project

OW1907142294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will launch a seven-year, 18 billion yen project next March to develop a silicon wafer for next-generation chips, ministry officials said Tuesday [19 July].

The project embroiling 11 semiconductor makers from Japan, the United States and Germany is designed to develop a silicon wafer 40 centimeters in diameter, twice as large as the current mainstream silicon wafer, they said.

The 11 concerns are made up of nine Japanese firms, including subsidiaries of Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Toshiba Corp. and Mitsubishi Materials Corp., and Memc of the United States and a Munich-based chemical company in the Hoechst Business Group of Germany.

They said the joint project is also intended to save development costs and promote exchanges of technological information.

The MITI will provide 12.6 billion yen or 70 percent of total research and development costs for the project through a technology research institute under its jurisdiction, they said.

North Korea

National Memorial Service at Kim Il-song Square

SK2007041594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—A national memorial service for the great leader President Kim Il-song is being solemnly held here today.

The illustrious leader of our party and people, Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, and senior party and state officials are present at the memorial service.

The Kim Il-song Square, the venue of the national memorial service, and the thoroughfares leading to it, all other squares, stadiums, gymnasiums and school playgrounds in Pyongyang are crowded with millions of people and officers and men of the People's Army.

Kim Chong-il, Officials Present

SK2007051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 [date as received] (KCNA)—A ceremony was held with solemnity today to bid the last farewell to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Deep grief and sorrow pervaded the Kumsusan Assembly Hall with the approach of the hour of the last parting with President Kim Il- song, the great father of our people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], who is the illustrious leader of our party and people, before the coffin was borne to the hearse, observed a moment's silence before the bier of the respected leader and went around it, accompanied by the members of the state funeral committee.

Then the ceremony of bidding the last farewell to President Kim Il-song took place.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, was present at the ceremony.

Also present were the members of the State Funeral Committee O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces; Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-presidents of the DPRK; Kim Pyong-sik, vice-president of the DPRK and chairman of the C.C., the Korean Social Democratic Party; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of Foreign Affairs; Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army; Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong- ho and Han Song-yong, members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the C.C., the WPK; So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the South Pyongan provincial committee of the WPK and chairman of the South Pyongan provincial people's committee; widow Kim Song-ae; Kim Chol- man, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK; Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., the WPK; Choe Yong-nim and Hong Song-nam, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice- premiers of the Administration Council; Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Hong Sok-hyong, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Yon Hyong-muk, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the Chagang provincial committee of the WPK and chairman of the Chagang provincial people's committee; Kim Ki-nam, Kim Kuk-tae, Hwang Chang- yop, Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the C.C., the WPK; Kim Hwan, Kim Pok-sin, Kim Chang-chu, Kim Yun-hyok, Chang Chol and Kong Chin-tae, vice-premiers of the Administration Council; Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee; Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang municipal administrative and economic committee; Chon Mun- sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission of the Central People's Committee; Yu Mi-yong, chairwoman of the C.C., the Chondoist Chongu Party; and other members of the funeral committee.

Chairman Han Tok-su and Chief Vice-Chairman Ho Chong-man of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and other compatriots overseas staying in the socialist homeland and those related to the anti- Japanese revolutionary struggle were present.

A guard of honor of the three services of the Korean People's Army and columns of colors of the KPA lined up there.

While the band played the dirge solemnly, the hearse carrying the coffin of President Kim Il-song slowly entered the place of the ceremony.

The chief of the guard of honour of the three services of the Korean People's Army made a report on the last farewell to the bier of President Kim Il-song.

After the band played the national anthem, the hearse passed before the columns of colors of the KPA and the guard of honour of the three services of the KPA when they made a salute.

The hearse, followed by Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, and members of the state funeral committee, headed for the streets crowded with millions of Pyongyangites and People's Army soldiers who turned out for their last parting with the fatherly leader.

The motorcade moved along a route over 40 km long stretching from the Yonghung crossroads through Hyoksin, Yongung, Chollima, Tongil and Chongnyon streets and the streets before the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Pyongyang School Children's Palace, Kim Il-song Square, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, Sungri Street and the street of the Arch of Triumph.

Amid the last farewell bade by millions of Pyongyangites and People's Army soldiers crying in bitter grief at the loss of their tender-hearted father, the hearse arrived at the place where the coffin would be laid.

The chief of the guard of honour of the three services of the KPA made a report on the last farewell to the bier.

The national anthem was played and the guard of honour of the three services and the columns of colors of the KPA solemnly saluted the bier before the moment of last parting with the great leader.

The guard of honour fired a salvo of 24 guns and rifles in honor of the memory of President Kim Il-song.

The guard of honour of the three services and the columns of colors of the KPA marched past the coffin.

Services, Attendees Detailed

SK2007155594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1538 GMT 20 Jul 94

["National Memorial Service for President Kim Il-song Held in Pyongyang"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—A national memorial service for the great leader President Kim Il-song was held with solemnity in Pyongyang today.

Kim Il-song Square, the venue of the service, and the thoroughfares leading to it, the Kim Il-song Stadium, the Arch of Triumph Plaza, Victory Square and other squares, stadiums and playgrounds of schools in the city were packed with millions of people and People's Army soldiers who gathered with bitter grief at the national misfortune unprecedented in the history of Korea.

Kim Il-song square was filled with bitter grief and pain at the loss of the respected leader President Kim Il-song who embarked on the road of revolution in his early years, wisely led our party and people for a long period up to his age of eighties, performing great exploits holding an immortal place in the history of the Korean nation and mankind and made a great contribution to the human cause of independence.

A blackrimmed portrait of President Kim Il-song was hanging on the front wall of the platform.

Flags were hanging at half-mast on flag poles in the square.

Hanging on the walls of tall buildings on either side of the square were slogans reading "We honour the memory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with deepest reverence," "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will always be with us", "Let us change today's sorrow into strength and courage and bring about a new upswing in the revolution and construction," "May the great revolutionary exploits of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song shine forever," and "Let the whole party, the entire people and the whole army unite in one mind and accomplish the cause of socialism."

At ten A.M. [0100 GMT] the illustrious leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, appeared on the platform.

The platform was also occupied by members of the State Funeral Committee O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [CC] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces; Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice- presidents of the DPRK; Kim Pyong-sik, vice-president of the DPRK and chairman of the C.C., the Korean Social Democratic Party; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, vice- premier of the Administration Council and minister of foreign affairs; Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong, members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the C.C., the WPK; So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; widow Kim Song-ae; Kim Chol-man, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK; Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., the WPK; Choe Yong-nim and Hong Song-nam, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-premiers of the Administration Council; Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; [word indistinct] Sok- hyong, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Yon Hyong-muk, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the Chagang Provincial Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee; Vice Marshals of the Korean People's Army Yi Ul-sol, Choe In-tok, Paek Hak-nim, Kim Pong-yul, Kim Kwang-chin and Kim Ik-hyon; Kim Ki-nam, Kim Kuk- tae, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the C.C., the WPK; Kim Hwan, Kim Pok-in, Kim Chang- chu, Kim Yun-hyok, Chang Chol and Kong Chin-tae, vice-premiers of the Administration Council; Yun Ki-chok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee; Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission of the Central People's Committee; Yu Mi-yong, chairwoman of the C.C., the Chondoist Chongu Party; and other members of the State Funeral Committee.

Also taking the platform were Chairman Han Tok-su and Chief Vice- chairman Ho Chong-man and Vice-chairman Choe Pyong-cho of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan

(Chongnyon) and other officials of Chongnyon, and Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the KPA known as the incarnation of faith and will.

Also occupying the platform were persons related to the anti- Japanese revolutionary struggle, overseas Korean figures, Giancarlo Elia Valori [spelling of name as received], secretary general of the Italian Institute of International Relations, and Yi Chong-sang, chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front.

Taking the seats of honour were leading officials of the party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs and public organisations, representatives of the scientific, educational and cultural and art circles, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces, heroes, bereaved families of patriotic martyrs, officials of the city and districts and labour innovators.

Foreign visitors staying in Pyongyang and foreign diplomatic envoys were also seen there.

All the participants in the service observed a moment's silence in memory of President Kim Il-song with deepest reverence while the music of silent tribute was sounded.

The band struck up "Song of General Kim Il-song".

Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council, delivered a memorial address.

Then followed speeches of representatives of workers, farmers, soldiers and Koreans overseas.

When the speeches ended, the Internationale was played, a gun salvo was fired and a long siren was sounded.

The participants in the service were full of revolutionary enthusiasm to firmly consolidate their party, the state and their revolutionary armed forces built by the respected leader President Kim Il-song with lifelong effort, resolutely defend and exalt Korean-style socialism and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche under the tested leadership of the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Praised

SK2007152794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—Representatives of various strata made speeches at a national memorial service for the great leader President Kim Il-song which was held with solemnity at Kim Il-song Square here today.

A worker of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex, labour hero Cho Chong-ki, speaking on behalf of the working class, said now the workers are wailing, beating their chests, vexed and pained to have been unable to make the heart of the fatherly leader beat again by dedicating all their hearts, if necessary, but have let him depart from our people.

There was no man in the world like the great leader who placed deepest trust in our workers and held them dearest, he said. "His precious leadership feats and deep benevolence in guiding our workers to uphold the party in the van will shine through tens of thousands of years and will remain forever in our hearts," he said.

"Today," he stressed, "the fatherly leader for our people is, immediately, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the dear leader is, immediately, the great leader.

"Our working class will overcome this great misfortunes today and change sorrow into strength and courage and effect a new great upswing in all domains of socialist construction and carrying through the teachings given by the great leader in his lifetime and the revolutionary economic strategy of our party."

The representative of the agricultural working people, Labour Hero Kim Myong-yon, chairperson of the Management Board of the Changchon Cooperative Farm in Pyongyang, said: "Many feats of famous leaders have been conveyed in the world. But there is no such distinguished and so dear people's leader who built a bountiful and civilized socialist countryside on this land, finding himself among ordinary people and humble farmers in his whole life and walking rough ridges between rice-fields till the last moments of his life like our leader. [quotations as received]

She said what filled their hearts at this moment of bitter grief when the fatherly leader departed from us, his heart stopping beating, was the steadfast faith and will to accomplish the revolutionary cause started by the fatherly leader, holding in high esteem the dear leader General Kim Chong-il, the great successor to the revolutionary cause on chuche.

Noting that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is the destiny and future of our revolution and the eternal symbol of victory, she said the farmers, under his guidance, will successfully fulfill the highly important tasks set forth in the rural theses and accelerate the complete victory of socialism indicated by the great leader by vigorously pushing ahead with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, in the rural communities.

Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin, speaking on behalf of officers and men of the People's Army, said that today when they could not see any more the affectionate appearance of the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song whom they believed in as in heaven and looked up to as the sun, all the officers and men of the People's Army are wailing, beating their chests with grief over the death of the fatherly leader of the nation.

He noted: "Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the defender of the country and the nation and the rare brilliant commander, who defeated two imperialisms in one generation, put rifles on the shoulders of sons and daughters of workers and farmers who had been forsaken like pebbles on the roadside and placed them in the noble armed ranks and reared the People's Army into a matchless strong arms by his tireless efforts.

"Regarding the behests of the great leader as our lifelong maxim, we will cement as firm as a rock the harmonious whole of the revolutionary ranks rallied around General Kim Chong-il, a great man for all ages and a famous general who descended from the heaven, and all the officers and men will become rifles and bombs, fortresses and shields defending the general on the foremost frontline of the revolution at the cost of their lives in whatever storms."

He said the South Korean authorities must renounce the foolish acts of getting on our nerves and provoking our armed forces, running about recklessly, ignoring elementary morality and courtesy.

"The revolutionary armed forces with the sagacious leader General Kim Chong-il as their supreme commander are fully prepared to cope with any provocation of the enemy and will never pardon any act of encroaching upon our dignity and security," he declared.

Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), speaking on behalf of overseas Koreans, said that Koreans in Japan and all other overseas compatriots are wailing, calling the leader with yearning toward the sky of Pyongyang at this moment with deepest sorrow at the loss of the respected leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the father of the nation.

He stated: "In view of the period of the revolutionary activities he conducted for over 70 years, the feats he performed in this period and the unquestioned authority and personality, our leader was the greatest man who topped the list of the great men of the world and the great elder statesman holding the topmost place in the world political circles."

"The great leader has never departed from us," Ho Chong-man said, and added: "The fatherly leader is always alive in the hearts of our nation of 70 million and five million overseas Koreans and always goes with them, leading them by the hands."

"Cherishing deep in mind the behests of the great leader, our Koreans in Japan and the entire compatriots overseas will hold respected General Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the outstanding leader of our revolution and the sun of the nation and firmly build up Chongnyon into a patriotic organisation of chuche loyal to General Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander.

"Our overseas compatriots will acclaim respected General Kim Chong-il on the high rostrum of the Reunification Plaza by achieving without fail national reunification in the 1990s desired so ardently by the great leader in his lifetime, under the banner of the 10- point programme of the great unity of the whole nation."

Foreign Diplomat Describes Ceremony

HK2007083294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT 20 Jul 94

[By Gilles Campion]

[Text] Beijing, July 20 (AFP)—The memorial ceremony in Pyongyang Wednesday to mark the death of President Kim Il-Song was a massive staged event aimed at reinforcing North Korea's dynastic succession, a foreign diplomat there said.

Huge crowds thronged the streets leading to the massive Kim Il- Song Square, in the centre of the North Korean capital, where around 100,000 people gathered in scorching weather for the rally, he said.

Around three-quarters of the crowd were military, who wore a black armband with their uniform, and the rest were civilians, who wore black suits and black ties or sombre clothes, the diplomat, reached by phone from Beijing, said.

Diplomats and foreign VIPs were placed in an open stand in blistering sun, forcing some of them to don baseball hats to cover their heads, while top officials took their seats on a covered podium.

The ceremony began with a 20-minute broadcast of selected utterances of the "Great Leader" who died on July 8 at the age of 82, and was followed by a memorial speech by deputy premier Kim Yong-Nam, combining a purple eulogy of the dead president with praise for his eldest son, Kim Jong-Il, 52.

"No specific reference was made to Kim Jong-Il's titles," the diplomat said, noting that Kim Jong-Il is supreme commander of the armed forces but has yet to be officially appointed party secretary or president, as his father was.

"But it was not appropriate to announce it now," he said. "Every speech implied that he was the new leader."

North Korea watchers have been eagerly scanning Pyongyang's propaganda and hierarchy for any signs suggesting that the younger Kim's powers may be crimped by members of the army or the revolutionary Old Guard.

Kim was flanked at the ceremony by Defence Minister O Jin-U and Prime Minister Kang Song-Nan, and the diplomat had the impression that the pair were positioned at a slight distance from the "Dear Leader," thus conveying his prominence.

The address by a ranking politician included an oath to support Kim Jong-Il, "the great successor to the revolutionary cause of juche (self-reliance), the dear leader of our party and our people and supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces."

It was followed by similar pledges from the other pillars of the regime: the military, represented by deputy defence minister Kim Kwang-Jim, the economy, represented by a farm worker and an electricity plant worker, and Koreans living abroad, whose remittances provide an economic lifeline for Pyongyang.

There followed a 36-gun salute to Kim Il-Song, and a three-minute silence, in which Koreans were called upon to remember their octogenarian chief, and locomotives and ships were to sound their sirens.

The mood was overall sober and subdued, and in complete contrast to the scenes of raving and grieving among an estimated two million members of the public.

In line with traditional North Korean secrecy, no information has emerged about any party plenum that would formally enshrine the pudgy Kim in the posts of party chief and head of state.

"The mystery goes on," the diplomat said. "But all the people I spoke to consider him their leader."

Kim Yong-nam Gives Speech

SK2007023994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0104 GMT 20 Jul 94

["Memorial speech" by Kim Yong-nam, "member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the Administration Council," at the "central memorial service" for DPRK President Kim Il-song at Kim Il-song Square in Pyongyang—live]

[Text] Comrades, Pyongyang citizens, all people of the country, and 70 million fellow Koreans:

We are gathered in this place, beating our chests over a great national misfortune never before seen in the history of our party and the fatherland. The entire country is filled with indescribable sadness [hyongyong halsu omnun] and progressive mankind is filled with great grief [kodaran pigame] upon hearing the astoundingly sad news [chongchon pyongnyok katun pipo] that the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song passed away from a sudden illness. At such a time, we have opened the central memorial service [chungang chudo taehoe] today to bid, with deep sadness, a final farewell to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, DPRK president, and generalissimo.

Under the authorization [wiime uihayo] of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, I will deliver, with boundless reverence and condolence, a memorial speech for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

All of us, with boundless grief and reverence, again express our deep condolences at this painful hour when the respected and beloved fatherly leader will leave our side to forever depart on a road of no return.

The sudden death of our respected and beloved fatherly leader who devoted his entire life to the popular masses' cause of independence, the socialist cause; made sleepless and restless efforts for the fatherland's prosperity and development, the people's happiness, and the country's reunification and independence throughout the entire world even until the last moment of his life; and carried out activities toward that end energetically, is a very regrettable and woeful thing [nomunado aesokhago choltonghan irimnida].

Our fatherland has been great and filled with honor because of the respected and beloved leader. Furthermore, our people have grown in the leader's [suryong] bosom to become dignified and proud people enjoying the greatest happiness which people of other nations of the world can not enjoy.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has been our people's destiny and the blood father for all of us, and his bosom has been the cradle of our happiness.

The fatherly leader [suryongnim] has always been in our people's hearts, and our people have always been in the fatherly leader's heart. Who could imagine the sudden parting of this inseparable perfect unity between the leader [suryong] and the people?

However, the great heart has stopped beating, and our people lost their father of life. Our people's sorrow at not being able to see again the bright appearance of the benevolent and holy fatherly leader is so great that it reaches the heavens, and the mountains, rivers, grass, and trees tremble with deep sorrow and have lost their shine.

A man in his eighties, until recently, the fatherly leader continued on-the-spot guidances and conducted external activities night and day, and underwent all sorts of troubles and hardships throughout his life without taking a good rest even once. Our people are all the more overwhelmed with deep grief and lamentation at his sudden departure. If the fatherly leader had had a good rest even one day in his life, our hearts would not be in so much pain.

Throughout the entire mourning period, the entire country wept and was a sea of tears. Our workers, farmers, soldiers, intellectuals, youths, and students, men and women, the young and the old went to the great leader's bier and statue to weep and lament, and to express the deepest condolences with deep reverence while gazing up at the benevolent image. This was the expression of the feeling of extreme pain gushing forth from the people who most enthusiastically respect, love, and trust their leader, and who are connected with the leader in blood ties, at having lost the axis of their destiny.

These ten-odd days which will be recorded in the history of our country have been sublime, sorrowful days which made people even more keenly feel the greatness of our leader in world history. On hearing the sad news of the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the state leaders, noted figures, and progressive people in all the continents of the world, east and west, expressed deep condolences lamenting the loss of the most outstanding great man of the present century. With wholehearted reverence, they shared the sorrow with our people.

At this moment, when we have to bid farewell to the respected and beloved fatherly leader with this painful grief, we look back with warm hearts to the great glory and national fortune of upholding the great Comrade Kim Il-song as leader, unable to suppress the feelings of adoration and condolences that are gushing forth.

The life of the great leader was a life of the glorious struggle which marked the most brilliant chapter in the twentieth century history of our nation and mankind. It was the most outstanding life of the greatest man of great men.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, whom our people upheld for the first time in the 5,000-long history, was a master of ideology and theory, a genius of leadership, a benevolent teacher of our people, and the incarnation of the most sublime benevolence.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who was born in a patriotic and generations-long revolutionary family, undertook the road of the revolution as a little boy in his teens, and led the unprecedentedly arduous and complicated Korean revolution to a shining victory. Contributing outstandingly to the cause of mankind's independence, he made immortal achievements which will shine forever in the history of our nation and the history of mankind.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who possessed extraordinary ideological and theoretical wisdom and an outstanding spirit of inquiry, created the immortal chuche idea and opened a new era in the development of the history of mankind, that is, the chuche era. Thus, he developed the chuche idea into the true guiding ideology of the revolution of our times in the process of the furious revolutionary practice.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song was the great leader of the revolution, who achieved the great task of national liberation and national prosperity under the banner of the chuche idea.

In the most dark period of national suffering, Comrade Kim Il- song, the peerless patriot and legendary hero, crossed the Yalu River at the young age of 14 with the firm determination that he would never come back unless Korea achieves independence. During the long 20-year period, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song victoriously organized and led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle by going through a sea of blood and a sea of fire and leading a hard life, exposed to the wind. As a result, he achieved the historic cause of national liberation, opened the road of national revival, and provided the glorious revolutionary tradition, the precious assets of our revolution.

In the first period of the construction of a new society, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song set forth a most wise and chuche- oriented line of building the party, the country, and the Army. Thus, he founded the Workers' Party of Korea, the general staff of our revolution; built the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is our people's glorious fatherland; strengthened and developed our People's Army, which had inherited the tradition of the Korean People's Revolutionary Forces into the invincible revolutionary armed forces; and, thus, successfully carried out the Korean revolution.

In the dark and arduous period of the fatherland liberation war, when a serious danger was imposed on the fatherland and the people, Comrade Kim Il-song, the great military strategist, led the Army and people to the victory of the war, taking upon himself the heavy burden of the war; defeated the armed invasion of the allied forces of the imperialists; and, thus, brilliantly defended the country's sovereignty and honor.

Thanks to the respected and beloved leader's great achievements, our people were rescued from suffering another miserable colonial slavery, and the leader's respected name was implanted in the minds of the people as the ever-victorious, iron-willed commander who defeated the two imperialists, and as the symbol of victory of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the genius of creation and construction, presented the unique revolutionary line of our own style; successfully carried out the socialist revolution by wisely leading our party and people under all sorts of difficulties and trials; and changed our country in which century-long backwardness and poverty prevailed into a powerful socialist state of independence, self- reliance, and self-defense by vigorously accelerating socialist construction.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song conceived a theory on building a chuche-oriented revolutionary party and brilliantly implemented it, thus strengthening and developing our party into a revolutionary party with tested leadership and powerful combative strength, a powerful party with a bright future, and one that has achieved the strongest unity and cohesion and has deep roots among the masses.

The great leader devoted his entire life to the revolution and led the 20-year anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the 50-year struggle to build a new society to victory. Our people have made decisive turns in their destiny and are enjoying worthwhile and happy lives under the most excellent socialist system to their hearts' content because of this great toil and benevolence.

The brilliant victories and historic changes which our people have brought about in revolution and construction and the happiness and honor which our people are enjoying today are unthinkable apart from the great leader's wise leadership.

No other leader [yongdoja] has brought about greater achievements in his own generation and is more loved and respected by the people than our leader [suryongnim], and there will never be another such leader.

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation, was the lodestar of the fatherland's reunification. Constantly referring to the uneasiness [maume nul kollindago] he felt in not fulfilling the fellow countrymen's earnest desire to enjoy happiness together in the reunified fatherland, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song made sleepless and restless efforts to achieve the fatherland's reunification.

The great leader, reflecting the nation's aspirations and interests, repeatedly presented the most fair, aboveboard, and reasonable plans and proposals on the fatherland's reunification and carried out activities to implement them night and day.

Because of the energetic activities and noble toil of the great leader, who enjoyed absolute respect from all 70 million Korean people and enjoyed high authority in the political arena of the world, a new turning point could be achieved in the way of the fatherland's reunification in today's complicated situation.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who had boundlessly noble national love, paid deep attention to overseas compatriots' movements; extended favors to them; and led all overseas compatriots to positively contribute to the struggle to defend democratic national rights the fatherland's reunification and achieve prosperity and development in the socialist fatherland.

Comrade Kim Il-song, a genius of mankind and an outstanding leader [yongdoja] of the international communist movement, presented a line on achieving independence in the entire world in compliance with the requirement of the new era, the era of independence; energetically carried out external activities under the ideals of independence, peace, and friendship; and, thus, elevated the dignity and honor of our country, which had lost its brilliance on the world map, to the highest level. He also made an immortal contribution to strengthening and developing the socialist movement and the Nonaligned Movement and accelerating mankind's cause of independence.

Because of his extraordinary achievements of having made contributions to the implementation of our revolution and the independent cause of mankind, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song enjoyed high respect, as a senior in world politics, from leaders, politicians, and progressive people in various world countries; and had absolute authority as the leader [yongdoja] who guided an independent era.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's long course of revolutionary struggle over 70 years was a glorious one which had been consistent with his endless love toward and self- sacrificing service for people.

The fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who had a boundlessly benevolent and broad-minded character, was always among the people to share the sweet and the bitter with them, and regarded the idea of serving the people like heaven as his favorite motto during the entire period of his revolutionary activities.

The thousands upon several tens of thousands of li [one li is equivalent to 4 km] traversed by the fatherly leader's on-the-spot guidance—which he conducted in every nook and corner of the country without taking rest, in rain or snow—was a course of the great love along which he devoted everything to the people.

Indeed, the respected and beloved leader was a great revolutionary and a saint of the revolution whom history has never known before.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song died regrettably at this historic time when our socialist cause of chuche is ever-victorious in cutting through the repeated difficulties and ordeals and when a new phase is unfurling on the future road before our revolution and the fatherland's reunification, failing to see the fatherland's reunification achieved and the revolutionary cause of chuche, which he had so wished to see, carried through. This is too bitterly mortifying and heartrending. This notwithstanding, we are not pessimistic, but are filled with faith in sure victory.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song provided us with the mightiest weapon and a rock-like foundation with which and on which we can continue to vigorously march forward along the single road to the victory of our revolution.

He brilliantly solved the leadership inheritance question on determinedly succeeding the revolutionary cause of chuche from generation to generation. This is the fatherly leader's most outstanding exploit which he achieved for the future of our revolution.

Standing at the head of our revolution today is the supreme commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great successor to the revolutionary cause of chuche and the dear leader of our party and our people.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il regards the succession to and implementation of the revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader [suryongnim], while embodying the sense of loyalty toward the respected and beloved leader at the noblest height, as his lifelong great work. Equipped with both literary and military accomplishments, and both loyalty and filial piety, Comrade Kim Chong-il is another great leader [ttohanbunui widaehan chidoja] who has completely inherited the fatherly leader's ideas, leadership traits, and noble virtues.

The dear comrade leader has since long [oraejonbuto] led the entire party and the whole military in a wise manner, thereby providing a new heyday of revolution and construction.

As long as we have the dear comrade leader, we will not fear any difficulty or big enemy [taejok] but will always be ever- victorious.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught us earnestly in his lifetime that in order to fulfill the revolutionary cause of the working class, we must uphold the leader's successor, the leader of the revolution, and wage a vigorous struggle with wholehearted unity around him.

Bidding farewell to the fatherly leader whom they trusted like heaven in their lives, all our party members and people pledge to unite around the party Central Committee with Comrade Kim Chong-il at its center and fulfill the chuche revolutionary cause as the leader wished in his lifetime. Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, is our fate and future. Upholding the leadership of the party's Central Committee led by Comrade Kim Chong-il is the way to resolutely defend and brilliantly carry through the revolutionary cause the fatherly leader pioneered.

Today, all the party members and people should renew their resolve in their remorseful conscience that they could not uphold the fatherly leader longer because of their insufficient loyalty and filial piety, thoroughly protect and defend the party center with our Comrade Kim Chong-il in its center, and uphold the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

We must firmly establish the leadership system of the party center headed by Comrade Kim Chong-il in the entire party membership, all the country, and the entire army, and push ahead vigorously with the revolutionary cause which was pioneered by the great leader to bring it to a brilliant completion with firm faith in victory under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

We must defend, adhere to, and add further luster to, as we treasure the pupil of our eye, all the revolutionary achievements made by the respected and beloved leader. This is the noble duty and revolutionary obligation of our revolutionary fighters to the leader who has left us. We must, in the future as well, absolutely believe in the revolutionary idea, the chuche idea, of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song generation after generation, persistently keep it up as the only guiding ideology of our party and revolution, and add luster to the revolutionary tradition of Mt. Paektu, the lasting cornerstone of the revolution provided by the leader, forever generation after generation.

We must continuously strengthen our party and the government of our republic built by the respected and beloved leader so that we may add luster to our party and state forever as the party and state of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. We must continuously maintain the independent position in all activities to display the independent dignity and the might of self-reliance and self-reliant national defense of our republic invariably and vigorously.

We must adhere to the wholehearted unity of our party and revolutionary ranks with which the fatherly leader provided us with his great labors, and more firmly solidify the wholehearted unity of the entire party membership, all the people, and the entire army with Comrade Kim Chong-il at its center so that we may firmly defend and add luster to our-style socialism with its invincible might.

We should invariably adhere to the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—elucidated by the great leader and should, in particular, thoroughly implement programmatic teaching given to each sector and unit by the great leader while he was alive, so as to continuously effect upsurges in the revolution and construction. By doing so, we should realize, without fail, the fatherly leader's aspiration to build a communist paradise in this land.

It is extremely regrettable that the fatherly leader, who considered the fatherland's reunification as the foremost task and made every effort to realize it, died before reunification. All Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas who have national consciousness [minjokchok yangsim] should hasten the fatherland's reunification under the banner of the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity and the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, which the great leader presented, so as to fulfill the desire cherished by the father of the nation.

Upholding the lofty intent of the great leader who made great efforts for independence of the entire world, we will strengthen friendship and solidarity with many countries and peoples in the world, based on the idea of independence, peace, and friendship, and will fulfill important missions of the times in building a new independent world.

We will turn today's sorrow into vigor and courage and struggle even more strenuously under Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership and will meet, without fail, the expectations of the people of the world who sincerely hope our people will achieve endless prosperity of the Republic, reunification of the fatherland, and consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause, following the great leader's lifelong will.

Although the heart of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has stopped beating, the fatherly leader's sacred name and his benevolent image will be kept in our people's minds forever; the leader's revolutionary achievements will shine everlastingly in history; and the leader's ideology and leadership will be further advanced by our party.

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song will live forever in the people's minds as the great leader of our revolution and will radiate rays eternally as the sun of chuche.

Kim Kwang-chin Makes Speech

SK2007061894 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0156 GMT 20 Jul 94

["Speech" by Comrade Kim Kwang-chin, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army, "on behalf of soldiers" at the national memorial service for Kim Il-song held in Kim Il-song Square in Pyongyang—live]

[Text] Comrades: Today when we have come to no longer see again the benevolent image of the respected and beloved leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, whom we have trusted like heaven and looked up to like the sun, officers and men of our People's Army are shedding tears and writhing in the greatest sorrow of having lost the benevolent father of the nation.

The great leader, who has built on this land a paradise of the people and a powerful socialist state that all people of the world envy by devoting all his lifelong efforts, who took care of all matters of the world, small and big, and who stood on the road of history at the front, has left us without seeing the day of national reunification, which he desired so much and for which he could not get sleep at night. How can our bitter pain of hurt, which the history of mankind has never experienced, be removed even after 1,000 years or 10,000 years?

The life of 80-odd years of the great leader, who with dignity stood at the center of the times and led the world from the day he awakened the world's people with the immortal chuche idea and held aloft the sword of independence, engraved a most glorious history in which he erected high the tower of creation, which no great man of the world can build and which mankind cannot reach.

The history of modern Korea and the history of mankind of the 20th century cannot be thought of apart from the whole life of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, and because of this the great leader's respected name will brilliantly shine forever as the symbol of victory.

Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the defender of the fatherland and the nation and commander of resistance, who defeated the two imperialist states in his lifetime, armed children of workers and farmers who loafed around on the roads like pebbles with rifles and rallied them to join the sacred armed ranks. He also emphasized to our officers and men that they should not forget the misfortune of national division even for a moment and implanted in our hearts the truth that the dignity of the nation can be defended only by rifles. Thus, he fostered our People's Army into a matchless, invincible, and powerful Army by devoting all sorts of efforts.

The great leader, who defended the honor and dignity of our fatherland by leading our revolutionary Armed Forces to victory at every phase with matchless courage and extraordinary and talented strategies, has suddenly passed away in the excited period of history in which we can see the day of national reunification coming near. This is indeed a bitter sorrow, and we cannot repress our heartbreaking grief.

However, we will not continuously fall in sorrow. Although the great leader has left us, the great leader's ideology and his revolutionary achievements will be immortal; and as long as there is the tested leadership of the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the fatherly leader will be victorious without fail.

The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, when alive, taught us: I expect all officers and men of the People's Army will consider Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il's order as my own, absolutely obey his order, and uphold the supreme commander's leadership with loyalty.

We will consider this will [yuon] left by the great leader to be a lifelong motto [pilsaengui chwaumyong] and further consolidate, like a rock, the revolutionary ranks' strong unity around General Kim Chong-il, a peerless great man and an outstanding great general [cholseui wiinisimyo kolchul myongjangisin]. Furthermore, all officers and men will become guns and bombs and fortresses and shields who resolutely defend the general [changgunnim] on the first line of the revolution without shaking under any storm.

Consolidating the People's Army's strength one-a-match-for-100 is an absolute guarantee for strongly defending the respected and beloved supreme comrade commander's leadership with guns [chongdaero].

We must firmly establish the revolutionary military discipline of imbuing the entire Army only with the respected and beloved supreme comrade commander's revolutionary ideas and jumping even into water or fire to implement any order or instruction of the comrade supreme commander to the end. We must also thoroughly implement our party's chuche-oriented military lines and, thus, resolutely crush the enemy's maneuvers to crush [apsal] the Republic and defend our- style socialism, built by the great leader, like an impregnable fortress, so no enemy can provoke it.

Upon hearing the sad news that the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song had passed away, the entire world has expressed deep condolences, and the people in the South, as well, feel extremely bitter for the loss of the nation's father. At such a time, only the South Korean authorities have committed such detestable bestial brutalities [chonin kongnohal yasujok manhaeng] as maintaining a state of emergency alert all over South Korea; arresting, in masses, patriotic people and youth and students who express their condolences; and aiming guns against fellow countrymen—who are crying sadly under mourning flags—just like setting a fire in a house in mourning.

Not knowing basic morality and courtesy, the South Korean persons in authority should stop silly acts of recklessly incurring the displeasure of our Armed Forces, recklessly behaving violently and daring to irritate us [nam choson tanggukchadurun chobojogin todokkwa yeyui pomcholto morugo punbyoropsi nalttwimyonso kamhui urirul chagukhamyo uriui muchangnyogul hamburo kondurinun orisogun haengdongul kodochiwoya hamnida]. Our revolutionary Armed Forces, which hold in esteem the sagacious leader General Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander, are fully ready to cope with any provocative maneuverings by the enemies [wonsudurui kuotton tobal chaektongedo taecho halsu innun manbanui chunbiga toeoissumyo], and will never tolerate the acts of infringing upon our dignity and security.

No matter how violent a wind may blow and no matter how many times the world may change, the officers and men of our People's Army, in conformity with the great leader's will, will solemnly pledge [omsukhui maengso hamnida] to uphold the respected and beloved supreme commander General Kim Chong-il, our destiny and life, in the highest position of the party, state, and Armed Forces [tanggwa gukka kundaeui choegosuwie nopi paturo mosigo], achieve the fatherland's reunification, the nation's earnest desire, in the nineties without fail, and complete the honorable chuche revolutionary cause, which was cultivated in Mt. Paektu, to the end generation after generation.

People Participate in Mourning Observances

Three-Minute Silence Observed

SK2007043194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—All the people across the country have cherished their memory of the great father President Kim Il-song, in the bitterest grief at his death.

At 12:00 today the entire people of the country observed a three- minute silence and locomotives, ships and all the organs with siren sounded whistles all at once.

People Write Poems on Sorrow

SK1907050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 19 Jul 94

["'No, You Must Not Go That Way'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—Korean people have written poems expressing their deep sorrow at the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Hundreds of poems are sent every day to the Central Committee of the Korean writers' union and the editorial board of NODONG SINMUN by telegram and registered mail.

The poem "no, you must not go that way" well reflects the piteous cry of the people that the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song, who walked long rugged paths for the people, must not go the way of last parting

It says that the 70 million people will lie down on that way to block it, and the journey he started from the wicker gate of his old home in Mangyongdae must lead him to the South coast, to the reunification of the country.

"I can hardly believe it," "the leader always with us" and other poems say that the leader did not depart our people but is always alive in their hearts.

Yi Sin-cha, chairwoman of the Pyongyang municiapal rural economy committee, expresses her deep sorrow at the loss of the tender-hearted father, looking back on the past days when she became a labour hero and a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly under his loving care.

In their tear-stained poems working people, youths, students, old men and women and children make a pledge to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche at any cost, true to the behests of President Kim Il-song.

They are unanimous in resolving to accomplish without fail both the cause of socialism and the cause of national reunification, remaining faithful to the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is triumphantly leading the revolution and construction, possessed of literary and military gifts.

'Grief' Said To Inspire Workers

SK1907052594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—The Korean people are rousing themselves up, turning into strength and courage their bitterest grief at the loss of the father of the nation.

Workers of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex, iron and steel giants of the nation, have boosted the daily output 20 percent as against the previous month, determined to faithfully uphold the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with increased iron and steel production.

Coal miners have lifted the daily output 5 percent or more on an average since July 10.

The workers of the Yongsong Associated Machinery Bureau resolved to beat their monthly target five days ahead of schedule. They are effecting innovations in the production of ordered equipment, actively introducing new working methods and voluntarily working extra hours.

Power producers including the workers of the Pyongyang thermal power complex have augmented the daily electric power output 30 percent by operating the generating equipment at full capacity.

Agricultural working people across the country are concentrating efforts on protecting crops from blight and harmful insects and flood, manuring and cultivating crops on a scientific and technological way.

President Kim Il-song's 'Undying Feats' Lauded

SK2007103594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 20 Jul 94

["President Kim Il-song Will Be Immortal in Human History"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—A solemn ceremony for bidding last farewell to the great leader President Kim Il-song took place in the capital city of Pyongyang Tuesday [19 July].

Millions of people in the capital and officers and men of the People's Army saw off the coffin of President Kim Il-song in deep sorrow on 40-kilometre long route.

The streets of the capital were enveloped in deep grief at the loss of the great father of the nation.

From the moment the sad news of his sudden death was flashed over the country on July 9, Korea has been buried in grief.

All the people of the country burst into sobs and nature also wept.

Endless streams of people flowed to the statues of President Kim Il-song erected in different parts of the country.

They hoped against hope that he would come back to life by some miracle.

They, overcome by sad feelings, went to his statues several times during the mourning period and many of them found themselves before his statues every day or twice a day, in the morning and in the evening.

From July 11 to 18, many workers, peasants, intellectuals, soldiers, youths and students visited the Kumsusan Assembly Hall every day and expressed deep condolences before the bier of President Kim Il-song.

Mourning services were held with solemnity at all the organs and establishments throughout the country.

And all the families across the country expressed deep condolences before the portrait of President Kim Il-song every day in bitter grief at the loss of the tender-hearted leader of the people.

But grief is not all that prevailed in Korea.

The Korean people have turned their inconsolable sorrow into strength.

They resolved to hold in high esteem Comrade Kim Chong-il as the illustrious leader of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people and remain loyal to him.

In these hearts of the Korean people President Kim Il-song lives an eternal life.

He performed undying feats for the time and the revolution. He defeated two imperialisms in one generation, restored the lost country and exalted the honor of the country and the nation.

He created a model of socialism in the east for the world by walking an untrodden path and successfully carrying out the democratic revolution and the socialist revolution.

The whole life of the president, who regarded "believing in the people as in heaven" as his lifelong motto, was the life of a great man recorded with most devoted services for the people.

One day he stayed outside a farmhouse until the day broke, afraid that he would awake its family, and sowed seeds on a field in spring. During his long journey of on-the-spot guidance, he heard the opinions of the people, shaped politics of love by consummating them and built a socialist society centred on the popular masses on this land.

The president made tireless efforts day and night to rejoin the severed national ties and opened a new horizon of national reunification.

Indeed, he bestowed on the people all the happiness and honor he could give.

The whole life of President Kim Il-song was the life of the most outstanding leader in the present era who made an imperishable contribution to the cause of human liberation under the banner of socialism, the banner of independence against imperialism.

He, who indicated the way to be followed by the times by founding the immortal chuche idea, powerfully encouraged the struggle of the world people for independence by setting a shining example in the revolution and construction.

He was the greatest man with a great idea and theories, extraordinary leadership, great magnanimity and generosity, and deep trust and love.

Nothing could undermine this undisputed authority and prestige of the president as an elder statesman of the world revolution and the most veteran leader of the socialist cause.

Therefore, his death is a big sorrow and misfortune for all the mankind.

Many telegrams to Pyongyang from every part of the global community plunged in grief reflect the pain of mankind at the loss of the greatest man peerless in the world.

Messages came from party, state and government leaders and political and public figures of nearly all countries expressing deepest condolences on the death of President Kim Il-song.

Countless are the wreaths sent to the bier of President Kim Il- song laid in state at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall from heads of state and prominent political and public figures of China, Cuba, Vietnam, Pakistan, Syria, India, Libya, Egypt, Nigeria, Palestine and many other countries.

Party, state and government leaders of many countries expressed their sorrow at the death of the president, the greatest statesman and a legendary great man.

The Indian prime minister wrote in the mourner's book: "With the death of the great leader, the world has lost a legendary great man." He said President Kim Il-song was the greatest, outstanding statesman and leader in the world.

This fully reflects the pain of mankind at the loss of a great man, a great leader.

Mourning services for President Kim Il-song were held with solemnity in all parts of the world.

Nationwide mourning periods were set in Syria, Cuba, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Nepal and many other countries and decisions and statements adopted by the Communist Party of Great Britain, the Socialist Party of Ecuador and many other political parties.

Party and state leaders and political and public figures of the host countries made calls of condolence at the Korean embassies and missions.

There was no difference in country and nation, ideology and system, political views and religious belief In-mourning the death of President Kim Il-song, a great man.

Leaders of western countries including the U.S. President, the Japanese prime minister, the Canadian governor-general and the French president, and the United Nations secretary-general and many other politicians expressed deep condolences in their messages and statements of condolence.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who had been received by President Kim Il-song quite recently, expressed deepest condolences on his death, saying he was fascinated by the president the moment he saw him.

President Kim Il-song was the greatest man who attracted all the people with noble personality and virtues. Those with different political view and religious beliefs were deeply impressed by his great idea of worshipping the people and noble virtues when they were received by him.

Human history has never known such a great statesman of the people as President Kim Il-song, who fascinated all the people with his personality and virtues and united tens of millions of people of a country on the basis of the same purpose and obligation. At the loss of such a leader the Korean people are shedding tears and mankind is in deep grief.

The president devoted his all to the cause of the independence of the popular masses in his lifetime.

That cause is now being carried forward by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader who has fully inherited the greatness and extraordinary traits of President Kim Il-song. His intelligence clearly indicates the way to be followed by mankind in whatever political situation and his grit and resourcefulness contain any formidable enemy.

His politics of love and trust has firmly built up the driving force of the revolution, the singlehearted unity, on this land. with this great singlehearted unity the Korean people will accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche started by the president, remaining faithful to Comrade Kim Chong-il.

President Kim Il-song is alive.

Upon hearing the sad news of his death, the Syrian president said:

"He is not gone.

"The dear leader Kim Chong-il will accomplish his cause. President Kim Il-song is alive."

President Kim Il-song will be alive forever in the hearts of mankind advocating independence, with the 20th century that has recorded the greatest radical changes in the world political map.

Kim Il-song Eulogized; Kim Chong-il Hailed

SK2007141594

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2237 GMT on 19 July carries a 22-minute composed recording entitled "We Will Uphold the Great Teaching He Left Us." The program begins with the announcer's lament over the death of Kim Il-song, then provides recordings of Pyongyang citizens and officers of the Korea People's Army (KPA) on their grief of losing the great leader Kim Il-song. KPA Officer Chong Yong-bae says weepingly: "To deserve the name of the fighters of the comrade supreme commander, we will become the lifeguards and death-defying corps which defends the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander." KPA officer Pak Il-yong also says weepingly: "We will uphold the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander with rifles and arms until the day of the fatherland's reunification."

KPA officer Kim Nam-kil states: "We do not worry about the future or the reunification of our fatherland because we have General Kim Chong-il. We are soldiers determined to sacrifice our lives at anytime upon his order."

Yi Chong-in, vice chairman of the Agricultural Committee, adds: "I will always be faithful to the dear comrade leader."

The announcer stresses Kim Il-song's great teachings left to all the people of the DPRK and their descendants: "Be faithful to Comrade Kim Chong-il. Unite as one around Comrade Kim Chong-il. Uphold the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty, and complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end." Saying that the most sacred oath is the people's oath taken in front of the bier of the leader (suryong), the announcer continues to report that the people of the DPRK are taking an oath to uphold his great teachings, and that Kim Chong-il "is leading the party, the state, and the revolutionary armed forces to victory."

At 0532 GMT on 20 July, Pyongyang radio carries a 23-minute radio essay entitled "The Leader [suryong] Lives Forever in the Hearts of the People." The announcer begins with Kim Chong-il's remarks on Kim Il-song's wisdom, leadership, and communist virtue, then reports on mourning scenes across the country. The announcer quotes condolence messages from various heads of state, and provides recordings of the wailings of Yi In-mo's daughter—Yi Hyon-o—and grandson.

The announcer further eulogizes Kim Il-song's devotion to the people and lauds the close ties between Kim Il-song and the people. He continues that the people of the DPRK now have "the ever- victorious, iron-willed sagacious commander General Kim Chong-il." The announcer adds: "The peerless great man and ever-victorious supreme commander General Kim Chong-il, who has perfectly embodied all the greatness and outstanding traits of the father [oboi], is standing at the front of our revolution."

After providing recordings of factory workers and an actor who express their grief, the announcer hails Kim Chong-il as "our sun," saying the people of the DPRK are "upholding and trusting General Kim Chong-il as the leader [chidoja] of our people and heaven."

Oaths To Follow Guidance of Kim Chong-il Cited

SK2007105094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 20 Jul 94

["We Will Remain Faithful to Behests of President Kim Il-song Through Generations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—The people of the whole country and the officers and men of the People's Army are making oath to carry into practice the noble intention of the great leader President Kim Il-song in his lifetime.

Yi Ho-ung, first vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, said: "The great leader always told us that Pyongyang must be firmly built up politically and ideologically, its looks be completely changed as becomes the capital of revolution in the economic and cultural domains, so that it may become a city of the people good to live in, an earthly paradise.

"I will devote all my energy and wisdom to building up Pyongyang so as to carry the behests of the fatherly leader into practice more successfully under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, cherishing deep in my mind the teachings of the great leader as steadfast faith, will and guideline," he noted.

Academician, Prof. and Dr. Yi Sung-ki, who is a winner of "Kim Il-song Prize", labour hero and director of the Hamhung Branch of the National Academy of Sciences, said that though he is old, he will certainly practise the intention of the great leader in his lifetime to supply better clothes to the people by developing science of the country under the guidance of the dear leader.

Pak Man-kun, chief secretary of the Sangwon Cement Complex Party Committee, stated that the complex will fulfill the task given by the great leader in cement production, holding the dear leader in high esteem, and make a report of loyalty.

Han Wang-kyu, director of the state-run March 3 Farm, noted that to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, remaining faithful to the guidance of the dear leader, is the behest of the great leader. "The entire agricultural working people of the farm will defend and further glorify our-style socialism centred on the popular masses by fully playing their role as one in charge of the granary of the country," he stated.

An officer of the Korean Peoples Army Yang Chin-sok said:

"Overcome by acute pain and sorrow, I feel as if the sky had fallen and the earth had broken.

"Though the fatherly leader departed from us, General Kim Chong- il, greatest among the great men and most brilliant among the brilliant commanders, is with us.

"We will certainly achieve the reunification of the country under the guidance of respected General Kim Chong-il."

Youth Resolve To Uphold Kim Chong-il Leadership

SK2007113694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1126 GMT 20 Jul 94

["Unshakable Faith and Will of Korean Youth"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—Five million young people of Korea have risen up like a giant, changing their bitter sorrow at the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song into a thousand- fold strength and courage.

They renew their determination to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche as wished by the great leader in his lifetime.

Students of Kim Il-song University and Kim Chaek University of Technology volunteer to stand by the bronze statues of the great leader erected on Mansu Hill and Nyongnam Hill as guards of honour day and night, sometimes under heavy rain. They harden their resolve to uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with more loyalty and filial piety than they did the great leader and remain loyal to the dear leader's guidance.

Numerous young people of all walks of life across the country every day express their determination to defend the gains of socialism provided by the great leader with their lives. "We will uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the great leader of our party and people and follow him forever," "Let us be rifles and bombs to defend General Kim Chong-il with our lives!" and "We will trust and follow only General Kim Chong-il" were written by some of them reflecting their wholehearted pledge on white silk, a symbol of the most clean and purest heart.

Working youth of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the Sunchon Cement Complex and other industrial establishments are effecting new innovations in production with the loyal heart to uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership with increased production.

The young people of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Songjin Steel Complex are overfulfilling their daily assignments by more than 50 percent.

The youth of the Namyang and Chilli coal mines are topping the daily quota of coal output by more than 30 percent.

Many young people in different parts of the country volunteer for leading sectors of socialist construction.

Over 29,700 youth and students of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, the March 26 Factory, the Kusong Textile Mill, the Onchon Senior Middle School in Onchon County and other units volunteered to settle in the socialist countryside. And some 900 youths including Yi Kwang-son of the electric shop of the Sungri General Motor Works and his three brothers volunteered to work at coal mines so that they could dedicate their whole lives to the realization the noble intention of the great leader who devoted everything for the happiness of the people.

The young soldiers are hardening their determination to defend with arms Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is the destiny of the country, the revolution and the people, and put their body and soul into bringing earlier the day when they will acclaim him on the rostrum of reunification.

The Korean revolution supported by the faith and will of these young people will cover a road of victory forever.

UN Building Flag Flown at Half-Mast 15 Jul

SK1807155194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1537 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—The flag was hung at half-mast at the building of the United Nations Headquarters on July 15 to honor the memory of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

UN General Assembly Meeting Observes Silence

SK1807120594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1118 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Participants in the 98th Plenary Meeting of the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly mourned over the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

At the meeting held in the presence of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali the president said that on the death of his Excellency Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he presented condolences to the government and people of the DPRK and the family of the deceased in the name of the meeting.

The participants, at the motion of the president, observed a moment's silent tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song.

Participants in the meeting of Asian group at the United Nations, at the motion of its chairman, observed a moment's silence, expressing deep condolences on the death of President Kim Il-song.

The chairman said that at this moment of bitter grief he expressed deep condolences to the government and people of the DPRK and the family of the deceased on behalf of the Asian group and that President Kim Il-song had devoted his whole life to the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the country.

Visits to Embassies, Missions Abroad Continue

Koreans in Shenyang, PRC

SK1807150794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Koreans residing in China visited the consulate general of the DPRK in Shenyang on July 14 to mourn the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Paying the condolence call were 551 China-resident Koreans including So Sun-ok, an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter, and her family.

The mourners laid wreaths and bouquets beneath the portrait of President Kim Il-song and observed a moment's silence in deep grief.

Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic

SK1807053494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Zoran Lilic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, called at the DPRK Embassy in his country on July 15 to mourn the death of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The president expressed condolences before the portrait of President Kim Il-song.

He wrote in the mourner's book that President Kim Il-song devoted his whole life to the freedom and happiness of the Korean people and to the independence and sovereignty of the country.

He further wrote:

"The death of President Kim Il-song is an irrevocable loss not only for the Korean people but also for the broad international community. We will always remember as our true friend President Kim Il-song who linked the hearts of the Korean people and the Yugoslav people closely together."

Syrian Leaders, Ministers

SK1807051694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Vice-President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zubi of Syria, accompanied by the minister of economy and foreign trade, the minister of culture and national guidance, the minister of state for foreign affairs, the minister of supply and commerce and members of the National Progressive Front, called at the Korean Embassy in Damascus on July 13 to mourn the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

They laid a wreath beneath the portrait of President Kim Il-song and expressed deep condolences with a moment's silence.

They made entries in the mourner's book.

The vice-president told the ambassador that they could hardly repress sorrows at the loss of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great defender of the cause of the third world and the Arab people's cause.

"We believe that the Korean people will carry forward the revolutionary cause of President Kim Il-song under the wise leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, another great leader," he said.

Nicaraguan Vice President Godoy

SK1807105894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Vice-president Virgilio Godoy and political and public figures of Nicaragua visited the Korean Embassy in Managua to mourn over the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

They laid wreaths and bunches of flowers before the portrait of President Kim Il-song and observed a moment's silence, expressing deep condolences.

The vice-president wrote in the mourner's book: "At this moment of great sorrow we express our invariable respects to him who had devoted his thought and whole life to making the Korean people a great people". He told the Korean ambassador:

"The unexpected death of the great leader President Kim Il-song is a big loss of the Korean people as well as the whole mankind. Though President Kim Il-song, a great friend, passed away to our regret, the friendship between Nicaragua and Korea will continue to strengthen and develop".

On the same day diplomatic envoys of Cuba, Palestine, Portugal, Iran, Colombia, Panama, Norway, Jordan and Russia in Managua paid condolence calls at the Korean Embassy.

Foreign 'High-Ranking Officials'

SK1807063194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—High-ranking officials of different countries called at Korean embassies to mourn the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Among the mourners were chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan A. Kekilbayev; first vice-president of Iran Hassan Habibi; President of the People's Assembly of Angola Fernando Jose do Franza Dias Van-Dunem; the Madagascan foreign minister as a special envoy of the president and a government mourning delegation of Madagascar; inspector-general of the Libyan Armed Forces Mustafa al Haroubi, a special envoy of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great September first revolution; Mp Khatib, director general of the protocol office of the presidency of Lebanon, as a delegate of the president; and Mozambican Minister of Interior Manuel Jose Antonio.

They expressed deep condolences before the portrait of President Kim Il-song and made entries in the mourner's books.

The mourners told the Korean ambassadors that they hoped the revolutionary cause pioneered by President Kim Il-song would successfully be carried forward under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Zairian Prime Minister Kengo

SK1807055594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—A Zairian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Leon Kengo Wa Dondo called at the Korean Embassy on July 16 to express condolences on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The prime minister was accompanied by the minister of external relations, a department director of the Ministry of External Relations, the chief secretary of the premier's office and other high-ranking officials.

The delegation paid a moment's silent tribute to the memory of President Kim Il-song.

The prime minister wrote in the mourner's book that the Zairian Government and people share sorrows of the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Zaire will remember forever the exploits performed by President Kim Il-song for peace and security of the world and for the strengthening of cooperative relations between Zaire and Korea.

He said he sincerely hoped that the entire Korean people would successfully carry forward to accomplishment the cause of President Kim Il-song under the guidance of His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

More Japanese Personages

SK2007111394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Tokyo, July 17 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Japanese personages visited the central headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) to mourn the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The mourners included Social-Democratic [Social Democratic Party of Japan] member of the House of Representatives and former Chairman of the Party Satao Yamahana, Social-Democratic members of the House of Representatives Yuzuru Shimazaki, Yasuo Yamashita, Nobuyuki Sekiyama, Izumi Yamasaki, Katsuhiko Yokomitsu, Kazo Watanabe, Ichiro Hino, Noboru Endo, Akihiko Ohata and Yoshimi Mino, Social-Democratic members of the House of Councillors Hajime Fukada, Satao Fuchigami, Sumiko Shimizu, Shoji Motooka, Maki Murasawa, Chinichi Ogawa, Atsushi Akiyama, Seijun Murada, Osamu Yatabe, Tomio Sakagami, Toshiko Shinozaki and Hisato Iwamoto, Liberal-Democratic [Liberal Democratic Party] members of the House of Representatives Taku Yamasaki, Toichiro Kuno and Setsu Shiga, Liberal-Democratic member of the House of Councillors Kiyoko Ono, former Liberal- Democratic member of the House of Councillors Yoshiko Odaka, Sakigake members of the House of Representatives Atsushi Nishikiori and Masayoshi Takemura (his representative), Komei [Komeito] member of the House of Representatives Kazuo Torii and former member of the House of Representatives Tokuma Utsunomiya (his representative).

Yoshimi Mino said: "I still remember the intimacy I felt from President Kim Il-song and his dignified personality of a revolutionary tested through a protracted struggle. The Korean nation with great potentials will unite and continuously open a bright vista, and the reunification of Korea and peace in Asia and the world will certainly be realised as desired by him."

Sumiko Shimizu said: "Such great statesman as President Kim Il-song cannot be found in any other place of the world."

More International Condolence Expressions Sent

Hanminjon Organizations, Missions

SK2007152994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—Organizations and missions of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) sent messages of condolence to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il upon hearing the sad news that the great leader President Kim Il-song passed away.

The messages of condolence came from the Seoul, Inchon, Kwangju and Pusan city committees, the Kyonggi provincial committee and other provincial, city and county committees of Hanminjon and its missions in Pyongyang, Japan, Syria, Vietnam and Cuba.

They said President Kim Il-song had devoted his life and soul for many years only to the freedom, liberation and prosperity of the people, to national reunification and global independence and performed undying feats for the country and the nation and for the times and history.

Saying that though the death of President Kim Il-song is the biggest sorrow, it is quite reassuring as long as Comrade Kim Chong- il is with them, they expressed the determination to change today's sorrow into courage and devotedly fight to achieve independence, democracy and reunification.

Meanwhile, many overseas Koreans sent to the Hanminjon missions messages of condolence addressed to Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Chongnyon-Affiliated Groups

SK2007042994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 [date as received] (KCNA)—Messages of condolence came from local headquarters, organizations and schools under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the death of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

Among them were Okinawa, Fukui, Ehime, Shizuoka and Toyama prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon, Hokkaido, Hyogo, Kyoto, Fukuoka, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Oita, Yamagata, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Iwate prefectural headquarters of the League of Korean Youth and the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, Fukuoka, Hokkaido, Okayama, Fukui, Miyagi, Hyogo, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Toyama and Kanagawa prefectural associations of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, Kyoto Korean Middle and High School and Yokohama Korean Primary School.

The messages said that though the great leader passed away, failing to see the day of national reunification he had been so concerned for, never forgetting the fellow countrymen in the South, the country is sure to be reunified and the revolutionary cause of chuche will be invincible as long as the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il stands in the van of the Korean revolution and the people are under his wise leadership.

They also expressed the determination to change today's sorrow into strength and courage and energetically wage the movement of Koreans in Japan and fight to the last for national reunification and the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche, rallied in one mind around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Mongolian, Iranian Presidents

SK1807060794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Wreaths from Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, president of the state of Mongolia, and Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the general commander of the Islamic revolution's guards corps and the chairman of joint Chiefs of Staff of the Army of Iran were laid before the bier of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 17.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, was standing by the bier of President Kim Il-song as a guard of honor, together with senior party and state officials.

When the band solemnly played the dirge, the wreaths from the Mongolian and Iranian presidents and high-ranking officials of Iran were laid by diplomatic envoys of Mongolia and Iran here.

The participants observed a moment's silence to honor the memory of President Kim Il-song and went round the bier.

The guests expressed deep condolences to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed thanks for this.

More Foreign State Leaders

SK1807062794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of condolence from foreign state leaders on the death of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The messages came from Mecheslav Ivanovich Grib, head of state and president of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, Q.K.J. Masire, president of Botswana, Henri Konan Bedie, president of Cote d'Ivoire, El Haj Omar Bongo, president of Gabon, Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of Gambia, Mahamane Ousmane, president of Niger, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin-Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, and Ong Teng Cheong, president of Singapore.

The messages express deep condolences on the death of President Kim Il-song.

They say the death of President Kim Il-song is the biggest loss for the Korean people, adding that his great exploits will be immortal.

A message of condolence came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central Military Commission of the WPK and the Administration Council of the DPRK from John, M. Nilkar, acting prime minister of Papua New Guinea, and messages of condolence to the DPRK Government and the bereaved family of President Kim Il-song from the Government of St. Lucia, Cape Verde President Antonio Manuel Mascarenhas Gomes Monteiro and Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

Socialist, Workers Parties

SK1807152594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 18 (KCNA)—Messages of condolence came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] from foreign party leaders on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The messages came from Gus Hall, national chairman of the Communist Party of the United States of America; Frank Baude, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party-KPML (R) of Sweden; Alberto Moreno, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland); Maria Pere, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Catalonia Communist Party of Spain; Hamadou el Bechir Gologo, secretary general of the National Direction Committee of the Sudanese Union-African Democratic Rally in Mali; Dogu Ferincek, chairman of the Workers' Party of Turkey; Alain Durigneux [spelling of names as received], secretary general of the Wallon Communist Movement of Belgium; Tsutomu Hata, leader of the Japan Renewal Party, and Masayoshi Takemura, chairman of the Japan New Party Sakigake.

They express deep condolences on the death of President Kim Il-song, saying that he devoted his whole life to the freedom and happiness of the people.

They express the belief that the Korean people will carry forward to accomplishment the cause of President Kim Il-song.

More Party, State Leaders

SK1907054994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of condolence from party and state leaders and parties of different countries on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Messages came from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Amir of Kuwait al-Jabir al-Ahmad Jabir al-Sabah, Tajik head of state and President of the Supreme Soviet Imamali Sharipovich Rakhmonov, President of the National Committee of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia Dragomir Draskovic, Chairman of the for Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland Timo Lahdenmaki, President of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon Walid Joumblatt, General Secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party Youssef Amin Wali, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the United Left Movement of Dominica Miguel Mejia, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party of Angola Manzaila Antonio, and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Czechy-Morava Communist Party Miroslav Grevenicek, and the Central Committee of the Hungarian Workers' Party, the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, and the National Leadership of the Revolutionary Party of Workers of Uruguay.

The messages express deep condolences on the death of President Kim Il-song who dedicated his whole life to the happiness of the people and say the idea and principle defended by him all his life will win.

Foreign Parties Send Condolences

SK1907055994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—Messages of condolence came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on the death of the great leader President Kim Il-song from Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Angola Honorato Lando, Coordinator of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Costa Rica Eduardo Mora Valverde, Chairman Jose Gonzalez Espinosa and Secretary General Esteban Diaz Jaquez of the Central Committee of the Dominican Labour Party, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Malta Vassalo Anthony Joseph, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party Pyotr Simonenko, the Central Committee of the Slovak Communist Party, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile, the Central Committee of the Norwegian Communist Party, the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Portugal.

The messages express deep condolences on the death of President Kim Il-song and the belief that the Korean people will defend and carry forward the great exploits he performed.

UN Envoy on Resuming Talks With U.S. 'Shortly'

OW2007041394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0309 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] In New York, a member of the North Korean mission to the United Nations confirmed Tuesday that Pyongyang intends to resume the talks with the U.S in Geneva shortly, following the memorial service for President Kim Il-song on Wednesday.

Informal meetings with the U.S. to set the date for reopening the talks may be held from Thursday, the North Korean official said.

He declined to comment on exchanges with the U.S. on grounds that such remarks were "impermissible during the mourning period," indicating that North Korean diplomatic activities have come to a standstill in the wake of the president's death.

But the officials said North Korea would be ready to answer questions from Thursday about its domestic and foreign policies.

Kim Chong-il Receives Former PRC Governor

SK2007111694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 20 (KCNA)—The illustrious leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, today received Chen Lei, former governor of Heilongjiang Province, China, who is related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and his wife on a visit to Korea to mourn the death of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

Present on the occasion was Kang Sok-sung, director of the Party History Institute of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Chen Lei and his wife expressed deepest condolences to Comrade Kim Chong-il and manifested their belief that the Workers' Party and people of Korea would build Korea into a more prosperous and civilised country for the people under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, true to the intention of President Kim Il-song.

Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed thanks for this and had a cordial talk with the guests.

Italian International Institute Official Arrives

SK1907151694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—Giancarlo Elia Calori [spelling of name as received], secretary general of the Italian Institute of International Relations, arrived here today.

He was met at the airport by Yi Chong-hyok, vice-chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee.

South Korea

'Hierarchy' at Kim Il-song's Funeral Viewed

SK2007012394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—The widow of the late North Korean President Kim Il-song, Kim Song-ae, attended her husband's funeral at Kumsusan Presidential Palace Tuesday as the 14th person in the hierarchy, a notable upgrading from her previous position.

In a list of 273 leaders that the State Funeral Committee announced July 9, Mrs. Kim was ranked only 104th.

The order of the hierarchy at the funeral was given by North Korean broadcasts, according to NAEWOE PRESS, the official Pyongyang watcher here.

The broadcasts also identified her as Kim Il-song's "widow," which is considered unusual, NAEWOE said.

Kim il-song's son and heir-apparent Chong-il, minister of the People's Armed Forces O Chin-u, Premier Kang Song-san, Vice Premiers Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol, Kim Yong-chu and Kim Pyong-sik, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, and Chief of General Staff Choe Kwang all attended the funeral, indicating no change in the upper echelons of the North Korean leadership.

However, it was not disclosed whether Kim Pyong-il, Kim Chong- il's half brother, was present at the funeral.

The list of North Korean leaders who attended the funeral is almost identical with that of the State Funeral Committee. But missing in the latest list were Vice Premier Kang Hui-won, ranked 18th in the previous list, Yi Son-sil, an alternate member of the Workers' Party political bureau (22d) and Kim Chol-su (23d).

Postfuneral Procedure for Kim's Body Reported

SK2007025994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—On Tuesday, the body of North Korea's late President Kim Il-song reportedly returned to Kumsusan Assembly Hall, better known as the presidential palace, and was laid to rest after funeral services including a procession through the streets of Pyongyang.

This is quite unusual in view of the traditional Korean funeral custom in which a corpse is not returned to the place where it lay before the funeral service.

It may be that the body will be moved to the Kim Il-song Memorial Hall, which has been under construction for over 10 years, for permanent preservation in a glass coffin for public display, along with Kim's personal articles, when it is completed. The Memorial Hall is 28 kilometers west of downtown Pyongyang.

Kumsusan Assembly Hall, located 8 kilometers northeast of the center of Pyongyang, had been the late Kim's residence and office until his death.

It was dedicated on April 15, 1977, in celebration of Kim's 65th birthday after four years of construction work. Situated at the foot of Kumsusan Hill, it is a complex of four- and five-story buildings covering a total floor space of 10,560 pyong (one pyong is about 3.3 square meters).

One of the buildings is linked to a subway 200 meters underground for emergencies, and the complex has a banquet hall accommodating 2,000 people, a theater and other facilities.

It was here that the late Kim received Seoul's delegation to the second inter-Korean premiers' meeting held in Pyongyang in October 1990 and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during his visit to Pyongyang in June.

The late Kim's body was reportedly embalmed and placed in a crystal glass casket for public display.

In embalming, the body is drained of blood and filled with antiseptics such as formalin, alcohol, phenol and glycerin. The crystal glass casket in which the embalmed body is laid is rid of oxygen, carbon dioxide and other gases and filled with argon gas.

Kumsusan Assembly Hall, featuring the late Kim's embalmed body in a glass coffin, is likely to become a new point of revolutionary interest in North Korea attracting local people remembering the great leader and foreign tourists as well.

Reports on Kim Il-song's Memorial Service

'Hundreds of Thousands' Attend

SK2007073294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea held a mass rally in commemoration of its late leader at Pyongyang's Kim Il-song square Wednesday [20 July] morning, with hundreds of thousands of people attending.

Pyongyang Television broadcast live the entire proceedings, which lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes, and Cable News Network (CNN) of the United States relayed the rally to the rest of the world.

—The rally proceeded with five representatives of the North Korean people reading memorial addresses, including Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin of the North Korean People's Army.

All five recalled Kim Il-song's "revolutionary struggle against imperialism and for chuche (self-reliance) and national unification," while calling for firm unity around "our new leader Comrade Kim Chong-il."

They all ended their addresses by calling Kim Chong-il the successor of his father Kim Il-song as leader of the country, saying, "dear supreme commander Gen. Kim Chong-il is none but great leader Kim Il-song," or "where there is Gen. Kim Chong-il, there is the great leader."

No word against "U.S. imperialism" was found in any of the addresses, unlike past public speeches in North Korea, and this is considered a reflection of North Korea's U.S. policy, especially its approach to the high-level talks with Washington.

During the rally, Kim Chong-il, wearing black clothes and a black band around his left arm, stood at the center of the platform facing the masses.

As in the memorial service the day before, he wore a poker-face throughout, bending his upper body slightly to the right. Carrying a haggard look, he appeared to be having difficulty moving his body.

He didn't speak at the gathering, contrary to expectations that he would deliver an address to the North Korean people as the new leader of the country.

Standing on either side of the younger Kim were Premier Kang Song-san and People's Armed Forces Minister O Chin-u.

—The people attending the memorial rally were quiet, wearing grim expressions, unlike the wailing mourners before the late Kim's statue and on the streets of Pyongyang during the funeral procession.

But when the rally ran past one hour, some people began leaving or twisting their bodies, wiping sweat from their faces with handkerchiefs. It looked sweltering in Pyongyang.

The men were clad in black and the women in white coats and black skirts while the service people wore uniforms.

People not attending the memorial rally got together on the banks of the Taedong River facing Kim Il-song Square and on streets near the square to listen to the memorial addresses coming out of loudspeakers.

When the rally ended at 11:15 a.m., the People's Army band played the "Internationale" and guns were fired.

At noon, all North Koreans said a silent three-minute prayer amid the blowing of a memorial siren.

Kim Chong-il at Podium Center

SK2007031594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—North Korean Television Broadcast an emotional memorial ceremony Wednesday for the late President Kim Il-song.

The massive rally, held at a jam-packed Kim Il-song Square, proceeded with a memorial speech by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam.

America's Cable News Network (CNN) aired live scenes of the ceremony through a relay of North Korean Television Broadcasts.

In his memorial speech, Kim Yong-nam enumerated the lifetime accomplishments of the late leader and depicted his son, Chong-il, as another "great leader" who would achieve the remaining revolutionary tasks in obedience to the will of Kim Il-song.

Standing at the center of the podium was Kim Chong-il, flanked by minister of the People's Armed Forces O Chin-u at his right, and Premier Kang Song-san at his left. Kim looked haggard and his mouth hung half open during the ceremony.

After the foreign minister's memorial speech, a thermal power plant worker appealed to the people to unite under "dear leader Kim Chong-il, who is the very supreme head of state."

A farmers' representative named Kim Yong-myong praised Kim Chong- il as the "chuche revolutionary successor, dear leader and General Kim Chong-il."

In addition, Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin asserted that "while Kim Il-song was alive, he told me that Chong-il's directives were like his own."

Buildup of Kim Chong-il as Father's Successor

SK2007080294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0753 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea built up Kim Chong-il as the successor to his late father Kim Il-song at a memorial ceremony in Pyongyang on Wednesday [20 July].

However, Kim neither spoke at the 10:00 A.M. [0100 GMT] ceremony held at Kim Il-song Square nor did he immediately take up the posts of Nodong (Workers') Party general secretary and state president, both of which were left vacant by his father's death.

Kim is expected to assume the party and presidential posts after necessary procedures are observed such as the convocation of the Supreme People's Congress.

At the mass rally held in a jampacked square, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and other leaders from the army, working class, farmers and overseas Korean communities successively praised the accomplishments of Kim Il-song and set up his son Chong-il as his successor.

The deputy premier, who appeared on the podium first, said in a memorial speech that "our comrade Kim Il-song has brightly solved the succession matters so that the great task of revolution can be completed by successive generations." He added that Kim Il-song had asked that good care be taken of his successor and great leader of the revolution.

Then he offered up Kim Chong-il as Kim Il-song's successor: "By changing our bitter sorrow into power and courage and making all parties, military forces and people united under the head of state Kim Chong-il, let's adhere to and brighten our style of socialism."

With regard to overseas affairs, the foreign minister said Pyongyang will stick to its foreign policies of independence, peace and friendship.

He made it clear that Kim Il-song's national unification policies, which are based on the "three principles" and "10-point program for grand union of all Korean people," would be carried on.

During his speech, he refrained from criticizing or expressing animosity toward the governments of the United States and South Korea, a notable sign that North Korea intends to continue dialogue with these countries.

Meanwhile, North Korean television reported that a huge number of residents thronged Chollima and Chonsung Streets in Pyongyang to watch the live broadcast of the memorial rally, which lasted for about one hour and 15 minutes.

Among the major figures at the ceremony were party and political personnel, Chochongnyon (Pro-Pyongyang Federation of Korean Residents in Japan) Chairman Han Tok-su and Yi In-mo, a hard-core communist who was sent to North Korea last year after spending decades in a South Korean prison.

Meanwhile, Japan's KYODO news service reported that Kim Chong-il did not speak at the memorial ceremony.

KYODO said North Korean television showed the memorial speech was read by deputy premier and foreign minister Kim "at the commission of Kim Chong-il."

Daily Analyzes Kim Chong-il's Policy Team

SK2007125494 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 19 Jul 94 p 5

[By reporter Hong Yun-o]

[Text] After a brief interval following Kim Il-song's death, North Korea has resumed its denunciations of the South, with the denunciations becoming harsher and more frequent. This hints that the Kim Chong-il people in charge of work towards the South have already begun their activities. By bringing up on 16 July the South-North summit for the first time since Kim Il-song's death, North Korea indicated that propaganda and agitation towards the South will be no different in the Kim Chong-il era than in the Kim Il-song era.

Most of Kim Chong-il's people in charge of work towards the South are old; some have been ousted in the past, while some have newly emerged from obscurity. This attracts public attention. Kim Chong-il has placed the focus of his policy towards the South on operational activities, with the ultimate goal of achieving the Korean revolution, rather than on official relations. Therefore, it is highly possible the core personnel in this field will be composed of agents [kongjagwon] instead of persons noted for dialogue.

It seems that Kim Yong-sun, 60, secretary in charge of the South, will for the time being certainly continue to hold supreme command in activities towards the South. On 28 June, when he attended the vice ministerial working-level contacts in preparation for the South-North summit talks as the North's chief delegate, he showed flexibility by agreeing to items on holding the summit. Up until now, Kim Yong-sun has been assessed as an influential man who has led North Korea's diplomacy with Western countries and who has enjoyed the confidence of both Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

Although he ranks 29th in the Kim Il-song funeral committee, Kim Yong-sun was seen on TV standing close behind Kim Chong-il. He helped Kim Kyong-hui, Kim Chong-il's most beloved sister, by holding her arms, thus drawing people's attention all the more. In addition, during the funeral period he received Koreans living in the United States, including Kim Chin-kyong and Mun Myong-cha. Although it is natural for the secretary in charge of the South to handle this job, this enables people to feel the importance of his future role in activities towards the South.

Meanwhile, Kwon Hui-kyong, 66, who was appointed director of the External Information and Investigation Department following his dismissal as ambassador to the former Soviet Union in April 1990, has recently emerged as being a person who leads activities towards the South in the Kim Chong-il era. Kwon was appointed vice director of the party's International Department in 1977. Then, after being dismissed as ambassador to the former Soviet Union in 1990 after 10 years of service, he was made director of the External Information and Investigation Department. When he was ambassador to the former Soviet Union, he often visited Pyongyang, enjoying his times hunting and drinking with Kim Chong-il and Chang Song-taek. He has been very close to Kim Chong-il.

Since he attaches greater importance to this department than any other which is in charge of operations towards the South, Kim Chong-il directly manages the External Information and Investigation Department headed by Kwon Hui-kyong. Accordingly, it is expected Kwon Hui-kyong will play a role as Kim Chong-il's expert on operations towards the South, along with Kang Hae-yong, vice director of his department, and Kang Chu-il, vice director of the Reunification Front Department.

Kim Chong-il's succession to power, the path of which has been paved for more than 20 years, is based on the propaganda, economic, and military sectors. In fact, at one time it was hard to find a "Kim Chong-il man" in the sector dealing with operations towards the South. However, in 1990 Kim Chong-il began propagating that he was leading the policy towards the South in his own way, and formed a group made of his own people. Kim Chong-il emphasizes professionalism in overseas affairs when screening personnel to be in charge of the Southern policy because North Korea's operations towards the South are changing into outflanking maneuvers through foreign countries, and because in the past South and North Korea had been discriminated against in the international arena. For example, Ho Tam, an expert on diplomacy, was secretary in charge of the South and director of the Reunification Front Department, as well as chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF].

Yun Ki-pok and Han Si-hae are strong candidates to succeed Ho Tam—who died in 1991—because they support Kim Chong-il's activities towards the South. However, Yun Ki-pok served as vice chairman of the CPRF from May 1981 to January 1990, when he was appointed secretary in charge of activities towards the South. It was learned that he once lost Kim Chong-il's confidence while secretary in charge of the South. Now he is chairman of the Economic Policy Commission, ranking 36th in the funeral committee.

Han Si-hae was ambassador to the United Nations from 1977 to 1984, and served as vice director of the Reunification Front Department from 1988 to 1991 when he was appointed vice chairman of the North's Headquarters of National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon]. In March 1992, he visited Japan as the head of a delegation from the North's Pomminnyon headquarters. As an expert on diplomacy and the South, he has participated in South-North dialogue and led reunification front activities with Koreans living in the Untied States. While ambassador to the United Nations, he held individual talks with Kim Chong-il whenever he attended meetings of overseas mission chiefs. Since he is a key person close to Kim Chong-il, people are interested in his future role in activities towards the South.

Chon Kum-chol, 70, who appeared several times in the South-North Red Cross Talks in 1972, has reportedly been ousted from the post of vice chairman of the CPRF and divested of his membership of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. Therefore, it is expected he will not be involved in activities towards the South in the future.

Chongwadae Avoids Comments on Condolences

SK1607014694 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jul 94 p 2

[From the "press pocket" column: "Adroit Avoidance"]

[Text] Chongwadae [presidential offices] yesterday tried to avoid commenting on the hot controversy over condolences.

Asked about position of the presidential office on the matter, spokesman Chu Ton-sik appeared not to want to get involved in the controversy, saying, "Home Minister Choe Hyong-u has already made clear the government's stance on the issue."

A ranking presidential aide said more plainly, "It is a common sense that condolences to Kim Il-song is against the people's sentiments."

He also echoed Chu, saying, "The issue will be handled wisely by the cabinet."

Hanchongnyon Might Send Condolence Mission

SK2007104594 Seoul YONHAP in English 1028 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—Hanchongnyon or the Korea Federation of University Student Council said on

Wednesday [20 July] they were studying sending a mission to North Korea to express condolence over the death of Kim Il-song.

Pak Sung-tu, president of the Sejong University Student Council and Hanchongnyon leader, told a press conference at the student hall of Hanyang University that if his organization formally decides on the dispatch, the condolence delegate would be Choe Chong-nam, age 26, an expellee from Seoul National University.

Choe is now staying in Berlin on his abortive trip to Pyongyang in connection with a South-North summit meeting.

"We are reviewing the plan to send a condolence mission inasmuch as we believe the dissolution of mutual distrust and enmity is essential to South-North unification," Choe said.

He said Hanchongnyon would make a final decision on the matter in a few days at a Central Standing Committee meeting.

The Seoul government has warned time and again that any one trying to go to North Korea to mourn over Kim Il-song's death would be sternly dealt with.

Regarding Sogang University President Pak Hong's claim that "Hanchongnyon is controlled by North Korea," Choe categorically rejected the charge, saying his organization is an independent body controlled by none.

"Hanchongnyon has never received any instructions or instigation through facsimile from North Korea or any other organization excepting the Pan-Youth and Student Federation (Pomchong-Hangnyon), a joint organization of youths and students in South and North Korea and the abroad," he said.

Hanchongnyon plans to sue Pak Hong if he fails to produce evidences of his claim or explain about it in a few days, Choe said.

N-S Trade May Be Considered Internal Business

SK2007070594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—Peter Sutherland, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said Wednesday that trade between South and North Korea could be considered an internal transaction because only the South has joined the current GATT system, according to senior opposition lawmaker Kim Won-ki.

Sutherland, meeting with the main opposition Democratic Party legislator, also said that inter-Korean trade could be interpreted as taking place within one nation even after the official launch of the World Trade Organization (WTO) if the North did not join the WTO, Kim stated.

People Register Candidacy for By-Elections

SK1807120994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1203 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—A total of 23 people registered their candidacy for National Assembly by-elections to be held in three electoral districts on Aug. 2.

An Election Management Committee source said that by the deadline of 5 P.M. Monday [0800 GMT 18 July], 12 people registered their candidacy in the Taegu Suong-a District: six in Kyongju: and five in the Yongwol-Pyongchang District.

With the completion of the candidacy registration, all political parties and independent candidates have entered full-fledged electioneering.

Government on Students Following Communism

SK2007003394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0027 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam has warned that the government will punish students who follow communism and lead violent rallies, the presidential secretaries said.

Kim made the remarks at a dinner meeting Tuesday with newly elected and re-elected lawmakers from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) at Chongwadae, the presidential mansion.

"The government cannot continue to be so tolerant. The government will never tolerate those students who blindly follow communism and indiscriminate violence," President Kim was quoted as saying.

Printed materials mourning the death of Kim Il-song were recently circulated at some universities, and a university president said two days ago that students are taking orders through facsimile messages from North Korea's Kim Chong-il, heir-apparent of the late Kim Il- song.

Stand Against North Followers Reiterated

SK2007052094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0513 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, taking a tough stance against violent student rallies and labor disputes, has warned that the government will not tolerate such activities.

The government, which has reputedly been somewhat lenient toward communism-oriented students since last year's inauguration of the first civilian administration in more than 30 years, wants to show its determination to preserve law and order, government officials analyzed.

The president's declaration was brought on by students' actions in support of the chuche (self-reliance) ideology of the late North Korean President Kim Il-song, the "criminal" who provoked the Korean war in 1950, and in pushing for violent demonstrations, according to the officials.

Some students demanded that the government allow people to visit North Korea and express condolences for the late Kim Il-song, thereby trying to encourage pro-Pyongyang sentiments by taking advantage of the North Korean leader's death, the authorities charge.

President Kim Yong-sam declared, "The government cannot continue to be so tolerant. The government will never tolerate those students who blindly follow communism and indiscriminate violence."

Printed materials mourning the death of Kim Il-song were recently found at some universities, and students at Chonnam National University even set up an altar to Kim in their schools last week, perplexing the government which could not expect that kind of student action.

Moreover, a businessman recently insisted that a socialist students' organization has already penetrated deep into labor unions and that labor disputes are not being settled because of the students' involvement.

Also prompting the government's tough attitude against the pro- Pyongyang students were remarks by a university president.

Park Hong, president of Sogang University, told a meeting between university presidents and President Kim Yong-sam Monday that students are taking orders through facsimile messages from North Korea's Kim Chong-il, heir-apparent of the late Kim Il-song.

Park said that "chusapa," a student faction following Kim Il- song's chuche ideas, received instructions from North Korea to stage a campaign against ratification of the Uruguay Round agreement and to start a signature-collection campaign demanding the return [word as received] of U.S. military bases to South Korea.

A government official said it is time for the administration to take action against the students.

"The authorities concerned and universities will closely cooperate with each other to root out the socialist students from the universities," the official added.

Hyundai Shipyard Union Threatens General Strike

SK1507113794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1115 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Ulsan, July 15 (YONHAP)—The labor union of the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., now in a labor dispute, threatened on Friday [15 July] to go on a general strike on July 21 if the management shows no change in its stand.

"We have been trying to negotiate with the management while working normally," a union leader said. "But a firm action now seems unavoidable because the management deliberately keeps speaking of possible lockout."

He said the union would escalate the extent of their current partial strike by staying away from workshops for four and half an hours on Tuesday and five and half an hours on Wednesday.

"If the management doesn't show a change in its negotiating attitude by Wednesday, we will enter a general strike on Thursday," the union leader said.

Meanwhile, the union of the Hyundai Precision Industries Co. went on a strike Friday, and the unions of the Hyundai Steel Pipe and Mipo Dockyard Cos. and some other Hyundai firms in the Ulsan area, plan to enter general strikes around July 21.

Hyundai Heavy Industries Implements Lockout

SK2007081394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0806 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Ulsan, July 20 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. (HHI) implemented a lockout at 3 P.M. Wednesday to counter a lengthy union strike, 9 hours earlier than originally reported.

Justifying the lockout at a press conference Wednesday afternoon, HHI President Kim Chung-kuk said the step had to be taken because the 27-day strike has caused great damage to the nation's economy as well as to the company. He accused the union of acting on outside instructions, including from the National Council of Union Representatives, and of making excessive demands.

A lockout is a harsh measure an employer is entitled to take against a strike under the Labor Dispute Arbitration Law. Once workers are locked out, they are not allowed to enter their workplace without management permission. If they conduct a labor action inside a workplace from which they have been locked out, it is illegal and invites police intervention.

The HHI union, nevertheless, has made necessary preparations for staging a sit-in at the firm: A confrontation with the police thus seems imminent.

In the meantime, the Federation of Hyundai Group Unions has decided to hold a rally Saturday afternoon to "block suppression of the union movement and realize victory through struggle."

Further on Lockout

SK2007052594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0519 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. (HHI), in an effort to resolve a protracted labor dispute, will implement a lockout at midnight Wednesday [20 July].

A company official said Wednesday that HHI is resorting to a lockout because no progress has been made in negotiations with the union, which has been on strike since June 24.

Management, however, will continue to negotiate with the union during the lockout, the official said.

An employer may lock out workers as a means of countering a strike, which is rendered unlawful during a lockout. If a strike takes place in the workplace during the lockout, police may move to quell it.

In the meantime, the Labor Ministry issued warnings Wednesday to HHI and Kumho Co. saying that the government "will not sit idle if labor disputes are further prolonged."

The warnings came after President Kim Yong-sam stated at a semi- annual policy review meeting Tuesday that extraordinary measures would be taken against major firms failing to settle lengthy labor disputes.

the HHI union has decided to launch a general strike Thursday. In an attempt to break the strike at Kumho Co., riot police were mobilized on June 29 but some 1,500 union members have been staging a sit-in at Chonnam University.

The mood is tense in Ulsan, where Hyundai group firms are clustered. Workers at Hyundai Precision and Industry Co. and Korea Flange Co. have already started partial strikes. Union members of Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co. and Hyundai Pipe Co. are scheduled to vote Friday and Saturday, respectively, on whether to initiate a labor dispute. The Federation of Hyundai Group Trade Unions is slated to hold a rally at the Hyundai Heavy Industries ground Saturday morning.

The National Council of Union Representatives, meanwhile, meets at Chongno Catholic Cathedral Wednesday afternoon to discuss ways to wage a struggle.

Number of Labor Unions Reportedly Decreasing

SK1807080994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—The number of labor unions in the country decreased for the fourth consecutive year in 1993 due to small business closures and union inactivity, the Labor Ministry said Monday [18 July].

Unions peaked at 7,861 in 1989 when demonstrations and democratization rallies prompted the Chon Tu-hwan Government to take steps to ease regulations on labor unions.

But the number dropped to 7,698 in 1990, 7,656 in 1991, 7,527 in 1992 and 7,147 last year, falling 9 percent during the cited four years.

The number of union members also tumbled by 13.7 percent from 1,932,000 in 1989 to 1,667,000 last year, cutting the unionization rate of workers—the rate of union members to total workers—from 19.8 percent in 1989 to 15.6 percent last year.

The ministry attributed the decrease mainly to the closing of many textile and fabricated metal businesses caused by a slump since 1990 and the inactivity of labor unions.

Meanwhile, the unionization rate in the United States fell from 35.3 percent in 1945 to 15.8 percent last year, while that in Japan decreased from 46.2 percent in 1950 to 24.4 percent in 1993.

Defense Ministry on Civilian Technology Transfer

SK1507021394 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry plans to transfer state-of-the-art defense-related technologies to civilian sectors in a bid to help promote technological development, thus strengthening national competitiveness in the international market.

As an initial step, the ministry will shift 12 items of technology soon to the businesses sector, a ministry official said.

"They (12 items) are those developed by the Korean Institute for Defense Analysis [KIDA] over 20 years at the cost of more than 18 billion won (some 22.5 million dollars)," he said.

It is the first time that technologies developed by the KIDA are transferred to the civilian sectors.

The ministry decision came in a bid to materialize President Kim Yong-sam's presidential campaign promise that he would maximize the synergistic effect between industry and the military by transferring military technology to businesses, the official said.

So far, 29 industries, including Daewoo Heavy Industries, and Goldstar Electric Machinery Co. requested technological transfer of 40 items since the ministry reported to the Trade-Industry-Energy and Science-Technology Ministries on the lists of the technologies to be shifted.

The ministry plans to expand the transfer taking into account the growing demands from the business sectors.

It will also hold a session to explain the technological transfer to relevant members of the companies.

As for the payment for the transfer, the official said the ministry was considering lump-sum payments and annual installments based on the companies' total annual sale amount.

"The transfer is urgent especially at this time just ahead of the scheduled opening of the domestic market following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations in the technological fields starting from 1998," the official said.

The technologies subject to transfer include gas sensor technology, tungsten and copper alloy development and canopy transparency forming technology for the production of transparent windows in airplanes, ships and other heavy vehicles.

Among the technologies of particular note is one for the development of the carbon-carbon compound material applicable in the production of the parts of the French-made high-speed railway of TGV and other heating elements and atomic reactor.

Gallucci Arrives in Seoul for Nuclear Talks

SK2007080894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0802 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci voiced hope Wednesday [20 July] that North Korea will remain the same as before the death of President Kim Il-song.

If that is the case, then prospects for the next round of North Korea-U.S. high-level dialogue are bright, he said.

Gallucci, the top U.S. representative at nuclear negotiations with North Korea, arrived in Seoul to discuss strategic coordination before the next round of high-level dialogue, expected to resume early next month.

The dialogue was suspended after just a one-day session when Kim Il-song died suddenly of a heart attack.

Gallucci meets South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Deputy Premier-Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku on Thursday before leaving Friday.

He will also sit down for extensive discussions with South Korean Nuclear Ambassador Kim Sam-hun on resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, mainly a comprehensive solution including a complete freeze of its program and improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations.

Committee Meetings Scheduled on Team Spirit

SK2007065994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—Working committee sessions of the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) between South Korean and U.S. military officials will be held at the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii from Aug. 8-10, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

The meetings were originally set for mid-June but were put off indefinitely as the North Korean refusal to accept nuclear inspections heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The two sides are expected to discuss ways of jointly handling the North Korean nuclear problem, adjusting security cooperation in the 21st century and the role of the U.S. Forces in Korea, and dealing with any changes due to the death of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

Moreover, they will consult on means to beef up joint defense readiness, share military expenditures and expand cooperation in the defense industry and logistics, as well as the usual agenda.

The two sides will also talk about matters concerning "Team Spirit," the joint annual military exercise between South Korea and the United States.

They agreed earlier to suspend this year's Team Spirit on condition that North Korea accept nuclear inspections and exchange special envoys with the South, but plan to discuss resuming the maneuvers if Pyongyang fails to meet these conditions.

If North Korea refuses to satisfy the conditions, the ministry tentatively plans to resume the exercise, although smaller in scale than previous years, around November.

The meetings will also review the results of a joint study by the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis (KIDA) and the U.S. Land Corporation entitled "Ways of Security Cooperation Between the Two Nations in the 21st Century."

The working committee meetings are normally held two to three months ahead of the main SCM so the two sides can adjust their positions on the agenda and joint statement in advance.

The SCM consists of four committees—the Policy Review Subcommittee (PRS), the Security Cooperation Committee (SCC), the Logistics Cooperation Committee (LCC) and the Defense Technology and Industrial Cooperation Committee (DTICC).

Korean War Documents From Russia Disclosed

SK2007064494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0614 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea made public on Wednesday the 1950-53 Korean war documents obtained from Russia that will disprove once and for all the North Korean claim that the fratricidal war was started by the Southern side.

"We are making a mid-term, partial revelation of the documents related to the Korean war, a total of 548 pages covering 216 items between January 1949 and September 1953," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said.

The documents' release, originally planned for June, was postponed after the two Koreas reached agreement on holding an historic summit, the first since the national division in 1945.

The documents are divided into four key sections—internal reports on communications between North Korea's Kim Il-song and the Soviet Union's Josef Stalin, communications between Kim and Chinese Leader Mao Zedong, messages exchanged between Stalin and Mao, and Kim's personal letters addressed to Stalin.

Chang said the release is partial and mid-term since Seoul has yet to agree with Moscow on a complete opening of all the documents.

In the past, North Korea incessantly claimed that the war was started by the southern side in collaboration with the United States.

"What we are revealing to the public today will prove that it was North Korea who started the war after obtaining the backing of China and the Soviet Union," the spokesman said.

The materials, translated by experts after President Kim Yong-sam received them personally from his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin during a visit to Moscow in June, include communication records of Kim Il-song asking Stalin for military support in April, two months before the outbreak of the Korean war.

They also include records of agreement between Kim and Mao on China's promise to back North Korea.

More on Russian Documents

SK1807023894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—The government plans to make public, possibly as early as this week, the Russian documents on the Korean war (1950-53) that were given to President Kim Yong-sam during his recent visit to Moscow.

The documents, dealing with the Russian Foreign Ministry's overseas policies, feature the major data supporting North Korea's invasion of the South that triggered the fratricidal war. The information consists of 100 basic documents covering 279 pages and 116 appendixes taking up 269 pages.

A senior government official said Sunday that translation of the documents has been completed. He disclosed that the translated versions will be made available to the media and academic circles in a few days.

He explained that the documents are being made public to help the media and academia obtain a historical understanding of the Korean war from the perspective of civilians.

"In opening a diplomatic document, we have to discuss it with the corresponding nation. We have reached a complete settlement on the opening of these Korean war-related documents with Russia," he said.

The Russian Government handed over the documents to visiting South Korean President Kim on June 2 as part of efforts to clear up the past.

UN Commissioner Comments on Human Rights

SK2007031194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea's civilian government has made significant progress in human rights but there is still room for improvement, including its National Security Law which prohibits any expression of sympathy toward North Korea, the United Nations' highest human rights official said Wednesday.

Saying he had discussed the security law issue with South Korean Government officials, Jose Ayala-Lasso, U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said he was looking forward to "results."

While refusing to go into specifics, the commissioner confirmed that the National Security Law has drawn the U.N. body's attention and that it was discussed in his meetings here.

"This is one of the points which we have discussed with the (South Korean) Government," Ayala-Lasso told reporters. "I had a conversation with the government which has been very friendly, constructive and important, and I am looking for results."

"I will not be specific because I have been in contact with the government and dealing with the government in dialogue which must be fruitful," he said.

The commissioner came to Seoul last Sunday at the invitation of South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu. He attended the third U.N. workshop for the Asia-Pacific region on human rights issues that closes later Wednesday.

South Korea's National Security Law, drawn up at the height of confrontation between South and North Korea which fought the fratricidal Korean war (1950-53), prohibits any unauthorized contact with or sympathy toward the communist rival.

Ayala-Lasso is the first man to serve as high commissioner for human rights since the post was created in February last year.

The workshop concentrated on establishing a regional forum in the Asia-Pacific, the only area in the world without such a framework, to meet regularly to promote human rights improvement.

North Korea is the only country in the region that was absent from the workshop.

"I want to have the door open," said the commissioner about North Korea. However, he realized there is much to do in the Stalinist state and he wants to do it "in due time, in appropriate contact," suggesting he will not rush Pyongyang.

"I hope I will be able to receive an invitation to visit and to talk about human rights," he said of North Korea.

"I hope my presence here has proved first that I have much interest in what is happening in Korea."

Asia-Pacific Human Rights Group Proposed

SK1907005194 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu yesterday proposed creating a regional human rights body for Asia and the Pacific, the only region which lacks such an organization.

"I believe that it is high time to discuss this subject in more detail," Han said in his speech at the opening ceremony of the third U.N. Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region on Human Rights Issues.

"I would like to propose that a human rights forum for the Asia- Pacific region such as this one be convened on a regular basis," he said.

Though the idea of a regional human rights mechanism was discussed at the two previous workshops, one in Manila in 1990 and the other in Jakarta in 1993, Han's offer marked the first official step toward the formation of the body.

Han's proposal was backed by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Ayala Lasso who also gave an address during the ceremony held at the Seoul Hilton.

"In particular, the development of a regional human rights arrangement for Asia and the Pacific is of great importance. Such an arrangement, specially fitted to address the needs of the region, would provide a particularly appropriate platform for collaboration and support among the Asian and Pacific nations," he said.

"...I therefore express the sincere hope that the present workshop will succeed in further defining the form and contents of a possible regional human rights arrangement for Asia and the Pacific," Lasso said.

In his speech, Han said that the experience of the Asia-Pacific region has reaffirmed that only democracy and human rights can ensure the full realization of individual potential.

He emphasized the people in the region, especially with their hard earned economic prosperity, must live up to the real and whole meaning of development which extends to the realms of political, cultural, legal and educational development.

Some 100 delegates from over 30 countries and international organizations attended the opening ceremony.

GATT Secretary General Sutherland Arrives

SK1807083294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0627 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—Peter Sutherland, chief of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), arrived here Monday [18 July] at the invitation of Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su to discuss issues related to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the ministry said.

Sutherland, who will stay until Thursday, is scheduled to meet with leading government and National Assembly figures including President Kim Yong-sam, Deputy Prime Minister Chong Chae-sok, Chairman of the National Assembly Hwang Nak-chu and related ministers to discuss the results of the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations and next year's inauguration of the WTO.

He will also speak Wednesday at a seminar titled "Korea and the Future of the Multilateral Trading System," sponsored by the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy.

Sutherland is making a world tour after the conclusion of the UR negotiations at the Marrakesh ministerial meeting last April. He visited China and Japan in May and Britain, the United States and the Czech Republic in June. He plans to stop in Brazil and South Korea this month.

His visit is attracting attention as Trade Minister Kim has emerged as a candidate for WTO secretary-general.

Banks' Credit Standing 'Back to Normal'

SK1807023294 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Jul 94 p 8

[Text] Korean banks' international credit standing, which had suffered a series of temporary setbacks due to nuclear tension and Kim Il-song's death, is seemingly back to normal.

As an indication of this, the Korea Development Bank [KDB] said yesterday that it will raise 20 billion yen (205 million dollars) by issuing Euro medium term notes (MTN) late this month.

The state-run bank said it will sign an agreement on the issues with nine international financial institutions soon.

The MTN will be issued at an interest rate of Libor (London Inter-bank offered Rate) plus 13 basis points, which the bank said is very low compared to issues of bonds by its domestic peers.

The KDB said the loans will be repayable in two and six months.

The successful issuance of the bonds with such good conditions mirrors the full recovery of Korean financial institutions' credit standing from the impact of Kim's death and nuclear tension, it said.

The bank said the conditions of its issuance of MTN will also assume the status of a yardstick for other domestic companies' issuance of bonds in Europe.

Task Force Formed for WTO Chief Bid

SK1507104994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0646 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—The Seoul government has established an inter-ministerial task force to assist Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su in his bid to become director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Son Chon-yong will head the team that meets once every two weeks to gather information on other candidates and to set strategy on mustering international support.

The current director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Peter Sutherland, has said he will step down with the WTO's official launching.

The selection of the first WTO chief is expected sometime in December, after a consensus is reached among participating countries, without a vote.

Brazilian Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero and former Italian Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero are among the registered candidates, along with Mexican President Carlos Salinas, who are expected to run for the post.

Seoul Joins Working Groups on Middle East Issue

SK1507023294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0207 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea has gained partial membership in the Middle East peace process multilateral working groups, a step toward reinforcing ties with the region, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Seoul had applied to join three of the five working groups—economic development, water resources and environment—and received unanimous approval at the July 12-13 conference in Tunisia, the ministry said.

The other two groups are concerned with regional security and refugees.

The working groups were created in January 1992 to support the Arab-Israeli peace process. The 40-odd members have met twice a year since March that year.

Japan, China and India are other Asian members of the groups.

Korean-Chinese Group Caught Entering Illegally

SK1607061094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Chungmu, South Korea, July 16 (YONHAP)—Twenty-seven Korean-Chinese were caught Saturday trying to enter South Korea illegally aboard a ship.

The Chungmu Maritime Police said the group of Korean residents in China, including a woman, changed boats off Southern Kyongsang Province and were attempting to land at Samchonpo Port when they were arrested.

The maritime authorities, after receiving a tip from Chungmu police night guard Kim Pyong-sik who reported a large group of people disembarking from a Chinese ship, dispatched two boats to capture the Chinese vessel in flight and rounded up everyone on board.

Police officials said the Korean-Chinese will be questioned on their motives.

Police here had obtained a tip on July 11 that Korean-Chinese were about to sneak into South Korea, prompting an emergency search with 300 officers that failed to detect them.

Three People Arrested for Aiding Boat People

SK1807080494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0444 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Chungmu, South Korea, July 18 (YONHAP)—The Maritime Police here on Sunday [17 July] arrested Sin Ho-kil, 38, of Samchonpo and two others on charges of violating the Immigration Law by arranging for Korean-Chinese boat people to enter the country.

Sin owns the ship which received 26 boat people from a Chinese vessel in the sea off Samchonpo and took them to an inlet near Samchonpo Saturday. The two others arrested are Chang Hong-chin, 54, of Samchonpo, skipper of Sin's boat, and Cho Chong-ho, 43, of Pusan who was to secure a bus to carry the Korean-Chinese from Samchonpo to Pusan.

During the boat people's interrogation, police found that in China there are underground rings for Korean-Chinese wishing to enter South Korea, but failed to detect any links between these Chinese rings and the three arrested persons.

Police are also investigating shipping firms plying China routes as they were recently tipped off that a certain Chong, 50, owner of a ship belonging to a shipping company in Chungmu, had asked for a bus to transport some 40 Korean-Chinese to Pusan.

On Saturday and Sunday, the police caught 67 Korean-Chinese stowaways for interrogation and jailed them in Chinju.

The Maritime Police have decided to strengthen the cordon against Korean-Chinese boat people in cooperation with the navy, as they have information that the number of ethnic Koreans in China wishing to illegally enter South Korea to make money is increasing.

Korean Students Attend Beijing Seminar

94P30079B

[Editorial Report] The 23 Jun CHOSON ILBO reported on page 31 that college students from both North and South Korea were attending a seminar in Beijing, sponsored by the International University Association for Basic Research. From 22 to 25 June, 170 students from 20 countries participated in a three-day seminar called "Young People's Role in a Rapidly Changing World." According to the article, 24 South Korean students led by Chonnam University Professor Kim Cha-hwi attended the seminar. They reportedly had the ROK Government's permission to meet North Korean students during the seminar. On the North Korean side, 19 students led by Kim Chaek University Professor Yi Kwan-su were in Beijing, reportedly with the "personal approval" of Kim Chong-il.

Construction Minister Leaves for Libya

SK1607012494 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jul 94 p 16

[Text] Construction Minister Kim U-sok left for Libya yesterday to strengthen ties in the construction field with the north African nation.

He will discuss with Zadallah Azouz al Talhi [name as published], secretary of the Great Manmade River Authority, and other construction-related officials ways of promoting cooperation in the construction field and expanding the footing of Korean contractors in the country, a Construction Ministry official said.

Ties Discussed With Nicaraguan Counterpart

SK1507104094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0622 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Seoul, July 15 (YONHAP)—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal confirmed his country's support Friday for South Korea's bid to gain a non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

South Korea, in turn, promised to back Nicaragua's candidacy for membership in the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

Leal and his South Korean counterpart Han Sung-chu met for talks on political developments in their regions and on ways to promote bilateral relations, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Han briefed the visitor on the North Korean nuclear row and developments following President Kim Il-song's sudden death. Leal expressed support for Seoul's position and confirmed Nicaragua's stance that the Korean question should be resolved peacefully through inter-Korean dialogue.

Han pledged to continue ongoing cooperation projects with Nicaragua such as grant-in-kind programs, job training for technology transfers and dispatch of South Korean experts to the Central American nation.

Leal, emphasizing his country needs national reconstruction, asked the South Korean private sector to participate in communication, energy, tourism and construction projects, and Han said his government will encourage investment by Korean firms.

The two foreign ministers agreed to conclude agreements on investment promotion and protection and on visa waiver, judging that the pacts would promote bilateral trade, ministry officials said.

Leal is the first Nicaraguan foreign minister to visit Seoul since diplomatic normalization in 1962.

He paid a courtesy call on President Kim Yong-sam and was awarded the order of diplomatic service merit. While meeting Kim, he delivered a special message from his President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir on Status of Cambodia's Chakkrapong

BK2007104694 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0832 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Pulau Pinang, July 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will ask Prince Norodom Chakkrapong of Cambodia to leave the country once a third country is prepared to accept him, Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed said Wednesday.

He also said that France is one of the countries being considered.

Dr Mahathir said the Cabinet, which held its weekly meeting here Wednesday, discussed the position of Chakkrapong who had come to Malaysia following an abortive coup in Cambodia. Chakkrapong has since denied involvement in the coup attempt.

Dr Mahathir had said Tuesday that the government wanted Chakkrapong to leave as soon as possible while the Cambodian Government had informed Malaysia that Chakkrapong should leave Malaysia before the visit soon of Cambodia's Co-Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

Border Talks With Thailand; Al-Arqam Discussed

BK2007071194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Thailand and Malaysia yesterday ended the second round of high-level border meetings in Kuala Lumpur where both sides made security proposals to be included in a reviewed border treaty to jointly tackle security threats along the common border.

Supreme Commander Woranat Apichari, who led the Thai delegation, said by next month both sides might finish the reviewed draft which would be forwarded for final approval during next year's meeting of the General Border Committee to be held in Bangkok.

However, the supreme commander did not detail proposals made by both countries.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat said the border treaty used since 1965 needed to be reviewed as there was no longer a security threat from the now-defunct Communist Party of Malaya which both sides, under the present treaty, had considered their "common enemy".

Former CPM secretary Chin Peng had given up the armed struggle in 1989.

During its first high-level meeting earlier this year, Thailand urged Malaysia to help suppress Thai separatists which regularly took refuge in Malaysia and proposed that all kinds of terrorists operating along the common border be considered the "common enemy".

However, Malaysia voiced disagreement on the issue but pledged to help Thailand tackle the problem by not allowing separatists to use its territory for purposes that would threaten the security of Thailand.

ACM Woranat said proposals from both sides would be merged into the reviewed border treaty. The third and final round of meetings will be next month in Thailand.

"There is not much problem left," said the supreme commander who will retire this year.

Lt-Gen Kitti Rattanachaya, the Fourth Army Region commander and a member of the delegation, said he was optimistic that Malaysia was ready to help Thailand tackle its security problem along the common border.

This is a complicated matter and one has to understand Malaysia's stance on the issue," said the commander adding that the problem should be settled with understanding.

Lt-Gen Kitti who played a key role in helping Malaysia tackle the CPM problem in the late 1980s said the problem on the issue was "how to give a new definition to cover security threats along the Thai-Malaysia border".

Lt-Gen Kitti said allegations that Thailand was giving military training to members of the Al-Arqam movement were raised unofficially with some senior Malaysian officers.

He said newspapers in Malaysia had given much coverage to the issue adding that "such reports are understandable as it relates to politics in Malaysia".

He said the claim on military training was greatly exaggerated and he had cleared the misunderstanding.

"There is no such alleged training site," said the commander.

He said Al-Arqam had a large following in Malaysia which might prompt concern for its government.

"As a close ally of Malaysia, it's not likely that we would let outsiders use our territory to destabilise its government," said Lt-Gen Kitti.

Minister: Peacekeepers Killed in Somali Ambush

BK1907070894 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0528 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 19 (BERNAMA)—Two Malaysian soldiers serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia were killed in an ambush Monday, Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said Tuesday.

Two other soldiers were injured in the attack which occurred near the Gulled Hotel in eastern Mogadishu, he said.

Najib named the dead soldiers as Stf. Sgt. Azman Mohamed Tahir and Cpl. Ghani Binyoi. The injured were Sgt. Zaidi Hanafiah and L/Cpl. Ahmad Abdul Rahman and were receiving treatment at the Malaysian Battalion (Malbatt) Medical Centre, he told a news conference at his office here.

Najib said the Malbatt Command in Mogadishu was arranging to have the bodies of the two dead soldiers flown to Malaysia as soon as possible.

The Malbatt suffered its first casualty when Cpl. Mat Aznan Awang, 33, was killed on Oct. 4 last year in a rocket attack while on patrol in the Somali capital.

Earlier this year, two officers serving as United Nations military observers were killed in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Final Loan Acquired for Construction of Airport

BK1807141094 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Jul 94 p 14

[Text] Japan yesterday extended a Y61.5 billion (RM1.6 billion) soft loan to Malaysia to help finance the construction of the new KL International Airport at Sepang.

This yen loan ranks largest in size of all the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) loan projects that have ever been extended to Malaysia.

It will be used to finance the construction of the passenger terminal building, contact pier, and consultancy services.

The loan, which comes with a three percent per annum interest rate, has a repayment period of 25 years with a grace period of seven years.

This 16th yen loan is also the last of such loans. From now, Japan's ODA to Malaysia will have somewhat different dimensions from the past.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Malaysia, Mr. Taizo Nakamura, said focus would now be placed on environmental management, poverty eradication and regional revitalization.

The development of human resources and promotion of small and medium-scale industries may also become priority areas.

"We hope to continue our assistance to Malaysia to help the country meet new challenges and needs arising from the process of rapid economic growth and development."

Nakamura was speaking at the signing of the exchange of notes and record of discussions between the two Governments. Nakamura signed on behalf of Japan while Malaysia was represented by Finance Ministry Deputy Secretary-General (Policy) Datuk Clifford Herbert.

Nakamura said former Japanese Prime Minister K. Miyazawa and Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had in their January 1993 meeting agreed to consider the so-called "post-graduate course" of ODA loans for Malaysia.

This was because Malaysia in terms of per capita income was reaching the level of graduation from the ODA loan eligibility in the traditional fields such as big infrastructure projects.

"After the airport construction project, we will enter the "post-graduate phase of ODA loans."

Nakamura told reporters after the signing, the rate of interest and other terns for ODA loans to Malaysia will be a matter for discussion.

Herbert, in answering queries from the Press on Malaysia's yen denominated debt, said the Treasury had established a section to look into the question of liabilities management.

"Where there is an opportunity, we will try to repay or refinance the yen loans. We also want to minimise currency changes impact on our debt."

"Of our total external debt, yen loans account for about 30 percent or the second largest denomination," he said.

He said that despite the increasing strength of the yen recently, the 16th ODA loan rate was still very attractive to Malaysia.

Cambodia

Thai Security Council's Stance on KR Praised

BK1907121794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Commentary: "A Great Encouragement for Cambodia"]

[Text] According to the Thai newspaper THE NATION on 9 July, the Thai National Security Council [TNSC] urged the Thai Government to initiate negotiations as soon as possible with the Phnom Penh government to lessen what it called the impact on Thailand by the Cambodian National Assembly's resolution to outlaw the Khmer Rouge [KR]. According to the same newspaper, the TNSC meeting spent six hours reassessing the current situation in Cambodia. General Charan Kulawanit, chairman of the TNSC, said that the meeting came to the conclusion that Thailand would be directly affected with such problems as border security, arms smuggling, and illegal immigrants, which would be the consequences of this legal action against the Khmer Rouge group.

It should be recalled that the Cambodian National Assembly passed a bill outlawing both the political and military wings of the Khmer Rouge. Cambodia's neighbors would surely be requested to extradite any members of the Khmer Rouge group who attempt to cross into these coutries.

Thai Government and army leaders promised in the past to fully cooperate with the Cambodian Government if the latter outlawed the Khmer Rouge, although they did not believe that such an action would contribute to bringing about genuine peace in Cambodia. The Thai Government and military have repeatedly rejected the allegation by the international community and observers that they continued to support the Khmer Rouge. Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said last Thursday [14 July] that Thailand would respect Cambodia's decision to punish the Khmer Rouge by outlawing them. He declared that it would not be difficult to do that. If that is really the joint policy of the Royal Thai Government and Army, it would be a source of great encouragement for the Cambodian people who, for three years, eight months, and 20 days, suffered so much under the Khmer Rouge and, for the past 10 years, have been the victims of incessant harassment, destructive raids, and indiscriminate killings at the hands of these rebels.

Our people maintain that the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge will in one way or another oblige the neighboring countries to reexamine their actions vis-a-vis the legal Royal Cambodian Government and the Khmer Rouge. Furthermore, our people clearly understand that the best way for them to act is to take part in stopping or arresting any Khmer Rouge leaders who attempt to cross the border and then extradite them to Cambodia so that the Royal Cambodian Government can punish them in accordance with the law.

SRV Troop Deployment Along Border Reported

BK2007050894 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 20 Jul 94 pp 1, 8

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] The REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA office recently received successive reports saying that "now along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, particularly at K'am Samnar on the border of Kandal and Vietnam's An Giang Province, Vietnamese troops, including armored vehicles, are being deployed to deal with the bad situation that could arise from Cambodia. The same sources also reported that "the deployment of Vietnamese troops took place following the 2 July failed coup in Cambodia. The sources further reported that recently many Vietnamese troops wearing uniforms and rank insignias, but with no weapons, moved deep into Cambodian territory in K'am Samnar commune.

On 15 July two REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA reporters went to the border at K'am Samnar.

Eang Sokun, K'am Samnar commune chief, reported the following: By 15 July, there seemed to be nothing noticeable about the number of Vietnamese troops on their territory adjoining K'am Samnar.

Eang Sokun affirmed that "we do not see a great number of Vietnamese soldiers adjoining our border; these are troops guarding the border.

Eang Sokun further specified that unarmed Vietnamese troops did come into K'am Samnar, but the presence was part of the good neighborly relations. These soldiers come to drink coffee at a market on Cambodian soil and return after eating and drinking. This type of coming and going is normal.

Eang Sokun further said that normally when the situation in Cambodia is not good, Vietnam beefs up its defense. For example, in certain cases, if the confusion in Cambodia is great, the Vietnamese might tighten the border area by restricting border crossing activities by Cambodians, even if they are known to the Vietnamese and live in the adjoining commune. If they are suspicious, they will not let Cambodians cross the border no matter how much money is offered to them. This is different from Cambodians.

We inspected the border and surrounding area and also crossed into Vietnam to monitor the real situation. There were no indications of an emergency situation.

Our reporters met with Cambodians who trade with the Vietnamese. They told us that the canal was dug by the Vietnamese in early 1976 during the Pol Pot era. However, they did not know the name of the canal, how long, how deep, or how wide it is.

The reporters also met two or three Cambodians concerning the old Cambodian border markers and whether these are now in their original locations.

These people specified that "as far as they know, the border was on the bank (of the river); however, after the war, the border markers fell down and broke. New markers were erected to replace the old ones... however, the new markers did encroach on Cambodian territory. This is similar to the way the Vietnamese have planted banana trees, corn, and sugar cane close to the border." Many people have reported that Cambodian border police have been very lax in checking border crossing by Vietnamese nationals. The police normally take money from those crossing the border, but they now seem to be stricter than before.

Paper Views Replacement of Arrested Official

BK2007060894 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 20 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Text] According to two separate sources on 18 July, the position of state secretary at the Interior Ministry formerly occupied by Sin Sen, who was arrested by the government, will be filled soon. The royal government will be proposing the name of the official for approval by the National Assembly.

An Interior Ministry official who requested anonymity said that Em Sam-an, currently adviser to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and who is presently working at the Interior Ministry, will perhaps replace Sin Sen. However, another source from the cabinet said that this position may go to Meas Sophea, deputy chief of staff of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces. It is not possible yet to definitively say whether either of these sources is correct, but it is believed that one is.

There are four state secretary positions at the Interior Ministry. One is now vacant because Sin Sen, the counterpart of Kieng Vang and who was recently confirmed by the National Assembly, was arrested because of involvement in the 2 July failed coup. Normally, important Interior Ministry positions, particularly those of minister and state secretary, are worked out according to the principle of co-ministers and co-state secretaries on an equal basis. Therefore, the candidate for the position will be proposed by the Cambodian People's Party [CPP].

Em Sam-an is a high-ranking CPP official who for many years was chief editor of the SPK news agency of the former State of Cambodia until the establishment of the full fledged royal government resulting from the October 1993 election.

Tol Loah, general secretary of the National Assembly, told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA on the evening of 18 July that the National Assembly has not yet received any requests in writing from the government proposing a replacement for Sin Sen.

Ranariddh Reportedly Acknowledges Investor Exodus

BK2007040994 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Reports from Phnom Penh say that on 15 July Ranariddh, puppet of puppet Hun Sen, lamented and acknowledged to foreign investors that all foreign businessmen are now fleeing Cambodia and that major factories and companies are closing. Ranariddh spoke in desperation and begged foreigners not to withdraw from Cambodia.

Observers in Phnom Penh say that the two-headed government is near death to the point that Ranariddh lamented and begged foreign businessmen. Foreign investors in general say that they are not going to do business with the two-headed government because of war and because there is no political stability, no security, and corruption is rampant

Furthermore, now there is the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation, which has far more influence on the nation and people than the two-headed government. Therefore, investors are withdrawing their capital to do business in other countries and will wait until there is peace in Cambodia before returning.

Township in Kompong Thom Reportedly Attacked

BK2007040794 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpt] On 17 July, the people cooperated with our National Army to attack two-headed government troops in Tang Kouk township in Baray District, Kompong Thom Province, killing three on the spot and wounding others. We seized two AK rifles, two AR-15 rifles, and some ammunition and war materiel.

The two-headed government forces stationed in the township were dispersed and we completely dismantled the state authority of the Vietnamese communist puppets and the two-headed government. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

ASEAN Regional Forum Reportage, Commentary

Alatas Says 'Attractive'

BK1907135794 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas will depart for Bangkok tomorrow to attend the 27th annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting. Speaking at a news conference in Jakarta this morning, Minister Ali Alatas said that the meeting will be held from 21 July to 23 July 1994. The ministerial meeting will be followed by the ASEAN Regional Forum scheduled to be held on 25 July. Eighteen Asian foreign ministers will be attending the forum. Indonesia will hold a meeting with its dialogue partners during the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Minister Alatas said the forum is attractive because this is the first ASEAN Regional Forum where a liberal exchange of views will be held on security, its prospects, and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. He added that during the meeting there was a possibility ASEAN members will discuss Vietnam's wish to hasten its entry into ASEAN.

Alatas on Regional Security

BK2007041194 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1752 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Jakarta, July 19 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia will present its views on how to reach a new unconfrontational balance through the concept of zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality (ZOPFAN) adjusted to the new condition in the Asia-Pacific in the upcoming ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Bangkok.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, in his first press conference here on Tuesday after some time in a hospital for treatment of his illness, said the Indonesian delegation would convey its perspectives towards security situation in the Asia-Pacific region in the ARF on july 25.

"We will put forward best methods of reaching regional security balance without trying to transplant existing institutions in Europe which do not fit with the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

The formation of ARF was agreed during the ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM) in Singapore in 1993.

ARF members include all ASEAN countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, their dialogue partners that include the United States, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Canada, and the European Community, consultative countries China and Russia, and three guest members Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, and Laos. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

He said the AMM would also discuss response possibilities [phrase as received] regarding countries' wish to become ASEAN dialogue partners.

He said ASEAN had recently opened a dialogue with India and according to plans it would also open dialogues with Pakistan.

He said, however, that "if the number of dialogue partners was too large, it would be difficult for ASEAN to provide time and arrange programs with those countries," he said.

Regarding Myanmar [Burma] planned membership, Alatas said that ASEAN should withdraw from its own isolation so far. [sentence as received] "We have to try to convince Myanmar on what benefit it could get if it could solve its problems, leave behind its isolation, and be more active in Southeast Asia," he added.

Regarding the question of a Thai non-governmental organization's [NGO's] plan to hold a conference on East Timor in concurrence with the AMM, Alatas said that so far he had not heard about further action of the Thai Government after issuing a ban last week on the planned conference.

"On principles, Indonesia rejects any abuse of the conference for a political campaign like the one in the Philippines recently," he said.

He said there had been many seminars on East Timor held in various countries which Indonesia often sent its delegation.

He said Indonesia would not mind for the holding of such a seminar by a Thai NGO if it was purely academic.

"However, if it were held in cooperation with foreign parties and were not a pure seminar, we certainly would stand like what we had shown to Manila," he said.

Regarding recent student demonstration in East Timor, Alatas said that it was mere demonstatrion and students' expression of emotion like similar ones in many countries.

"It was not a big matter, but it became big because it happened in East Timor and had been fastly engineered to become bigger than it was," he said.

"As a big and developing country, it is not impossible for anything to happen in various corners of the region initiated by irresponsible persons," he said.

Alatas charged as not responsible at all to allege that the incident was connected with religious problems, reminding that the East Timor problem itself had already been very complex without necessarily linking it with religions.

Development of Riau With Singapore Discussed

BK2007030894 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Indonesia and Singapore need to harmonize policies on the joint development of Riau Province, particularly customs and immigration procedures. Speaking after the fifth meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee in Riau yesterday, Industry Minister Tungky Ariwibowo said efforts to harmonize the policies were one of the points agreed upon during the meeting. The two sides also agreed to develop the northern and southern parts of Bintan Island into a tourist resort and an industrial site respectively. The development of Riau Province through Indonesian-Singapore cooperation is estimated to cost U.S. $10.3 billion or some 20.6 trillion rupiah.

Soldiers To Be Courtmartialed for Remexio

BK1907121294 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 14 Jul 94 p 16

[Text] Kuta, REPUBLIKA—Major General R. Adang Rukhiatna Puradireja, commander of the Udayana Ninth Military Region Command, has said that two soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] will be courtmartialed and may even be sacked for their involvement in the Remexio incident in East Timor. The two men, Ncy and BU [names as published] are from the Combat Engineering Battalion and Battalion 123 respectively.

Maj. Gen. Adang chronologically detailed the Remexio incident in reply to questions from reporters after Home Affairs Minister Yogie Suardi Memed opened a regional working meeting of environment assessment commissions from eastern Indonesia in Kuta on Wednesday.

On the occasion, Maj. Gen. Adang expressed sincere regret over the Remexio incident. He vowed to verify reports on the incident circulating in East Timor. "Did the two soldiers commit the offense that hurt the public?" said Maj. Gen. Adang while citing several reports on what the two soldiers had done.

But the Udayana military commander added: "The soldiers were wrong no matter what happened and what they actually did." The soldiers were not in uniform when the incident took place. Moreover, they entered a religious function without any instruction from their superiors and did so simply out of curiosity. "This should not have happened to a soldier," said the Udayana military commander.

He said that every soldier has been taught about cultures and customs. "The two ABRI soldiers will be courtmartialed for the incident, and their cases are being processed," Maj. Gen. Adang said firmly. The two-star general hinted that the two soldiers could be sacked.

Maj. Gen. Adang explained that a religious function took place in Remexio on 28 June for which ABRI personnel were invited because the ABRI was building roads in the area. The ABRI officers who were invited for the religious function did not enter the venue but instead intended to congratulate the congregation after the function ended.

"However, two ABRI soldiers, Ney and BU, whose ranks are private first class or private second class, were curious about the function."

The two soldiers later entered the venue simply out of curiosity. The soldiers were reportedly not serious but smiled once they were inside.

The attitude of the two soldiers seemed to be unacceptable to those attending the religious function. "We have overcome the incident, and it is under control," said the Udayana military commander while adding that there had been a religious function to resanctify the venue.

He said that some 50 people demonstrated outside the Office of the Governor of East Timor following the Remexio incident. "The demonstration proceeded in a peaceful and orderly manner. They simply appealed to all sides to mutually respect religious freedom," said the two-star general.

The appeal for the mutual respect was positive. Subsequently, the deputy governor and the commander of the East Timor Military Command gave correct accounts of the incident to the demonstrators.

Asked about a possible infiltration of a certain group into the demonstration and a possible link to the Dili incident, Maj. Gen. Adang said that the demonstration was unrelated to the Dili incident. "The demonstration was orderly. There was no problem about the presence of Waly Bacre Ndiaye, UN special rapporteur on human rights. On the contrary, this could have a positive impact as it showed that an orderly demonstration was permitted in this country," said the Udayana military commander.

Laos

Khamphoui Receives Cambodian Mekong Delegation

BK1907132594 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Vientiane, July 19 (KPL)—The vice-prime minister and president of the National Committee for Planning and Cooperation, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, on July 17 received here a visiting delegation of the National Mekong Committee of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by Ing Kiet, minister of public works and president of the National Mekong Committee.

Khamphoui Keoboualapha highly valued the visit of the delegation to Laos. He also pointed out the Lao Government's stand and support for the Kingdom of Cambodia to rejoin the International Mekong Committee as now it is the right time for the fraternal Cambodian people to receive the just interest from the Mekong Committee.

Vice Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha also confirmed that the Lao Government and people always support the struggle of the Kingdom of Cambodia for being a country of independence, peace, unity, neutrality, non-alignment and prosperity.

The head of the Cambodian delegation expressed thanks for the reception and informed the Lao vice-prime minister about the result of the talks with the Lao National Mekong Committee, thus importantly contributing to the strengthening and promotion of the relations and cooperation between the National Mekong Committees of the two countries.

Minister Ing Kiet also thanked the Lao Government for its support to Cambodia on this matter.

The Cambodian National Mekong Committee left here for home on July 18, ending its three-day visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

Philippine Foreign Minister Arrives

Holds Talks

BK2007041494 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Yesterday, His Excellency [H.E.] Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs, held official talks with H.E. Roberto Romulo, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, at the Vang Sadet guest house in Vientiane. The Philippine foreign minister is currently on a two-day official friendship visit to Laos.

During the talks, which proceeded in a friendly and straightforward atmosphere, H.E. Foreign Affairs Minister of Laos and his Philippine counterpart informed each other about the situation in their respective countries. They discussed ways and means to further promote and expand friendly relations between the two countries in the present and in the immediate future. H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat wholeheartedly welcomed the visit by H.E. Roberto Romulo, a visit which, he said, will serve as a new step for the increasing, fruitful promotion and strengthening of the long-standing friendly relations between Laos and the Philippines. The Lao and Philippine foreign affairs ministers also discussed cooperation plans in many fields between the two countries. They particularly discussed problems concerning the renewal of the Philippine Embassy in Vientiane and Philippine assistance to improve Lao technical cadres. The Philippine side has agreed to provide aid and cooperation to Laos on trade and investment. In this regard, the Republic of the Philippines has reiterated that it will encourage more Philippine businessmen to invest in Laos in the immediate future.

H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat and H.E. Roberto Romulo also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest. H.E. the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of the Philippines arrived in Vientiane at noon on the same day for an official two-day friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic at an invitation of H.E. the Foreign Affairs Minister of Laos.

Received by Prime Minister

BK2007052894 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Yesterday, His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of Laos, received at the Hokham Presidential Palace in Vientiane, a courtesy call from H.E. Roberto Romulo, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, who is currently on an official friendship visit to Laos. Prior to his courtesy call on H.E. President Nouhak, H.E. Foreign Minister Romulo also called on H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon at the Prime Minister's Office.

On this occasion, both H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan and H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon spoke with H.E. the Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Philippines in a warm atmosphere of friendship. Both of them welcomed the visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Romulo and considered the visit very significant. They noted that it is a new milestone in promoting and expanding friendly relations and cooperation between the Governments and peoples of Laos and the Philippines on the basis of the principles of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and mutual respect. The visit, they said, has also significantly contributed to the cause of friendly relations and cooperation among the nations in Southeast Asia and the world for peace and stability.

H.E. Philippine Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo took the occasion to express profound thanks to H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan and H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation. He also reiterated the determination to continue to promote, expand, and strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. H.E. Roberto Romulo also informed H.E. President Nouhak and H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai about the outcome of his meeting and talks with H.E. Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat. He said: In the meeting, which proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, both sides agreed to further promote and expand to a higher and firmer level the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat accompanied H.E. Roberto Romulo in paying courtesy calls on H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan and H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon respectively. Also accompanying the delegation on the courtesy calls on the Lao leaders was Her Excellency Ms. Tirona, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Laos based in Bangkok.

National Assembly Extraordinary Session Closed

BK1907122794 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Vientiane, July 19 (KPL)—The National Assembly (Third Legislature) yesterday closed its fourth extraordinary session after 13 days of sitting with three draft laws passed. The laws include the Law on Business Operations, the Law on Taxation and the Law on the State Budget.

A resolution was issued at the closing session. This National Assembly extraordinary meeting was participated by 83 of its total 85 members, two being absent (?due to) health reason.

National Assembly members conducted discussions on the three draft laws and presented opinions about them in an active and responsible manner and according to the schedule of each agenda.

According to the resolution, this extraordinary session, after thorough deliberations, unanimously passed these three laws. Concerning the Taxation Law alone, the session assigned the National Assembly Standing Committee in coordination with the Government to consider the tax rates for the president of the republic to issue a state decree enforcing them very soon.

This session agreed that the coming annual extraordinary session scheduled for September 19 to October 15 will consider and pass some important work of the state. In addition, it will deliberate and pass two more urgent draft laws: the Law on Warranty and the Law dealing with the collapse of enterprises.

Also agreed was the holding of seminars concerning the implementation of the first constitution of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and other previously enforced laws on the third anniversary of endorsing and enforcing the constitution (14/8/1991-14/8/1994). This was designed to review both strong and weak points in the implementation as well as to boost the respect of those laws in the entire society.

Philippines

Defense Secretary on SRV Spratly Lighthouse

BK2007102494 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato De Villa today revealed that Vietnam's plan to construct a lighthouse in the controversial Spratly Islands is a threat to national security [as heard].

De Villa said the plan is ill-timed in light of the claimant countries' resolve to settle the Spratly dispute. However, he emphasized that the government will clarify the matter with the Vietnamese Government.

[Begin recording in English] I do not believe that it is at the moment a security threat. But it is an issue that perhaps, as I mentioned earlier, should be raised with Vietnam at the diplomatic level. [end recording]

Japan Provides Loans for Energy Projects

BK2007110594 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Jul 94 p 9

[Text] Japan released yesterday its 11th yen loan project including six grant projects worth P [pesos] 5.853 billion to be spread out under its rural electrification development nationwide program.

Japanese Ambassador Yoshifumi Matsuda and Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Roberto Romulo signed the seven official development assistance (ODA) projects over the weekend.

Economic Director Reiichiro Takahashi of the Japanese Embassy said the yen loan and the grant projects are extended primarily for the development of infrastructure projects and technical assistance for basic human resources, mostly in rural areas.

The yen loan worth P3.009 billion (11.433 billion yen) will be used to finance energy-related projects under the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The NEA loan is the 11th project included in Japan's overall 18th yen loan package of $1 billion or P27 billion comprising 13 individual projects.

Of the P5.853 billion released as ODA to the country, a total of P2.845 billion will be allotted to fund six grant aid projects to include educational, water supply rehabilitation, and agricultural development.

Also formalized during the ODA signing is the P10 million (41 million yen) cultural grant aid extended to the Bukidnon State College.

Takahashi told reporters the P3.009 billion will be made available to the NEA development project to improve its power distribution capacity in 45 rural electric cooperatives throughout the country.

"The government of Japan has placed high priority in recent years on mitigating power shortages in the Philippines," he said. Takahashi added that assistance has been extended in the construction of power plants.

However, the Japanese economic director clarified that Japan does not intend to put up energy-related projects such as in the full construction, commissioning, and operation of power generating plants.

"For these energy projects, (our plan) is not to build power plants but to improve the efficiency of these power facilities," he said.

Hiroshi Takami, financial attache of the Japanese Embassy, said the rural project brings to 11 the finalized yen loan agreement for the country.

Takami said the remaining two projects, still under the consultative stage, will involve rehabilitation of two power facilities Kiwi and Makban geothermal plants at a combined project cost of at least P5 billion (22 billion yen).

The yen loan project and six grants aid is the first ODA package signed under the new government in Tokyo led by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

The six grant projects included in the ODA are:
—The P752 million (2.857 billion yen) projects to improve educational facilities involving the construction of 110 elementary school buildings. The project is part of the local government's medium-term plan to construct about 500 school buildings nationwide;
—The P396 million project to rehabilitate typhoon-damaged water supply in Leyte;
—The P898 million rehabilitation project for the Balara water treatment plant, one of Metro Manila's two water treatment facilities;
—The P70 million project for water supply at Mt. Pinatubo resettlement areas, which include well digging and the installation of spring water distribution facilities;
—The P573 million agricultural development project for Aganan River; and,
—The P156 million rehabilitation project for Dipalo River and Principal Communal Irrigation System damaged during the 1990 earthquake in Baguio.

Police on Giving Arms to Abu Sayyaf Group

BK2007085294 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] The Philippine National Police [PNP] leadership today vehemently denied an allegation of the Abu Sayyaf group that the firearms they are using came from the government's arsenal.

Agerico Kagaoan, PNP deputy chief of operations, said the news released by the Abu Sayyaf bandits is part of their psychological warfare tactics. Their aim is to destroy the morale of the soldiers that they are fighting.

Kagaoan's statement was confirmed by Alfredo Filler, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff. Filler said if Abu Sayyaf's allegation is true, they would not divulge their source because their alleged contact with the military would be in jeopardy.

[Begin recording in English] [Filler] Why should they tell you. They will protect that source. They will protect that source so that they can get some more. They will not expose that source.

[Kagaoan] Those are just techniques. Those are very shallow techniques. It's part of psywar [psychological warfare], and the enemies that we are facing now are also knowledgeable about psychological warfare. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Southern Command Chief Orlando Soriano today denied that the military is providing arms to the Abu Sayyaf group in Zamboanga City, in reaction to the Abu Sayyaf claim that the military continues to supply arms to advance their fight against the government.

Soriano said this is just propaganda which aims to discredit the military's objective of maintaining peace in the province. Soriano, however, said he is conducting a silent investigation regarding Abu Sayyaf's statement.

Thailand

House Committee Chairman Discusses U.S.

BK1907092594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 94 p A5

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Thailand David Lambertson said yesterday that Thai-U.S. relations have been unaffected by an accusation made by a former U.S. ambassador to Thailand linking the Thai military with the Khmer Rouge, according to the chairman of the House committee on foreign affairs.

Dr. Krasae Chanawong, the committee chairman, quoted Lambertson as saying that an article written by former U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Morton Abramowitz and published in the WASHINGTON POST on May 29 was Abramowitz's personal opinion.

Krasae said Lambertson praised the Thai government for trying to settle problems between the two countries, such as rights over intellectual property.

Krasae said he had also discussed the rejection of a U.S. entry visa for deputy Chat Thai Party leader Watthana Atsawahem on suspicion of drug trafficking.

Early this month, Army chief Wimon Wongwanit lambasted Abramowitz, saying his article was "the act of an enemy of the Thai armed forces, and not the act of an envoy but of a devil."

Wimon said the former U.S. ambassador to Thailand is like an ill-informed information-monger. "He wrote from outdated material without bothering to update it, which is a hoax," Wimon said.

After the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok had confirmed that it has denied Watthana a visa on suspicion of drug trafficking, Watthana launched an anti-U.S. campaign and challenged the U.S. Embassy to produce evidence to back its trumped-up charges.

Deputy Party Leader Sues U.S. Ambassador

BK2007055894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Chat Thai deputy leader Watthana Atsawahem yesterday filed a defamation lawsuit against United States Ambassador to Thailand David Lambertson and U.S. Information Service (USIS) director John Reid in connection with his being denied an entry visa to the U.S.

The lawsuit was submitted to the court by Mr. Watthana's lawyers, Phairin Manunphon and Wirat Siintarasut.

The Criminal Court set August 29 for preliminary examination of the case.

The lawsuit states that the USIS on July 1 distributed a statement containing a reply to a question—raised by the news media—in the name of the U.S. Embassy, explaining why Mr. Watthana had been denied an entry visa: "There is reason to believe he is or has been an illicit trafficker in a controlled substance and/or has been a knowing assister, abettor, conspirator, or colluder with others in illicit trafficking of controlled substances."

The suit says the embassy and USIS had no right to issue such a statement which may cause people to hate and insult Mr. Watthana, who is a Samut Prakan MP and deputy leader of the Chat Thai Party, and to believe he has been engaged in illicit occupations and is seriously detrimental to the country and society.

The USIS statement has also damaged the name of Mr. Watthana's family and may ruin his popularity among voters in his constituency as well as his business. It may also destroy his credibility among banks and financial institutes, according to the lawsuit.

The Criminal Court is asked to punish the two defendants and order them to publish an apology in seven dailies for seven consecutive days.

Mr. Watthana also stated in a press release that he had to sue the pair to protect his name in the first place since it is likely to be difficult for Mr. Lambertson to accept an invitation to testify before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, citing diplomatic privilege.

The Chat Thai deputy leader also said he would ask Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri to take diplomatic action with the U.S. ambassador as soon as possible.

"We will see whether this minister will protect the interests of the U.S. or of Thailand," he said.

Mr. Watthana also said he would file a lawsuit with a U.S. court and that he expected to appoint lawyers to take such action in early August.

He did not say in the release who he would sue in the U.S. However, he had earlier said he would sue U.S. President Bill Clinton, Mr. Lambertson and USIS.

Cabinet Approves Participation in ASEAN Fund

BK2007102294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 17

[Text] The Cabinet has approved Thailand's participation in the establishment of the ASEAN Fund, the agreement for which will be signed during the ASEAN ministerial meeting in Bangkok from 26-28 July.

Prime Minister's Office deputy spokesman Montri Danphaibun reported after yesterday's Cabinet meeting that Foreign Affairs Minister Prasong Sunsiri will sign the accord.

The Cabinet will authorise the Budget Bureau to allocate an additional 18 million baht to the account at the Bank of Thailand which now tops US$8.3 million, and transfer $1 million to the ASEAN Fund account at the ASEAN Secretary-General's office in Jakarta by October, Mr Montri said.

This contribution has already been included in next fiscal year's budget he said.

The ASEAN fund, which includes contributions from member countries, will be held in two separate accounts—the Seed Fund Account and the Projects Fund Account.

The Seed Fund Account will be primarily used for investments and will account for 80 percent of the entire fund, or roughly $4.8 million.

The Projects Fund Account will utilise the remaining 20 percent, or $1.2 million, to fund projects approved by ASEAN foreign ministries through a permanent ASEAN board.

Projects eligible for the fund must benefit the entire ASEAN region or involve participation by all six ASEAN nations.

The ASEAN permanent board and the ASEAN Fund Management Committee will supervise the fund.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet yesterday also approved a memorandum of understanding on a draft of the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation program to be extended until 1998, with a budget of A$[Australian dollar]32 million.

Squadron Leader Prasong will also be authorised to sign this agreement during the ASEAN ministerial meeting.

Government Urged To Review Ban on East Timorese

BK1807045994 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jul 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] The Confederation for Democracy (CFD) yesterday called on the government to review its restrictions on a human rights seminar and its ban on 11 East Timorese activists, who had planned to attend.

The demand was endorsed during a meeting at a hotel attended by CFD chairman San Hatirat, Dr Weng Tochirakan, Prathip Ungsongtham Hata and Arom Michai.

"The CFD and other non-government organizations voice their opposition, and call on the government to review the restrictions imposed on the seminar, during which speakers would talk about the human rights abuses in East Timor and Burma," Prathip said.

"The confederation also calls on the Foreign Ministry to review the ban on East Timorese attending the conference," she added.

"Thailand, as a democracy, should not block freedom of expression of the people. Therefore we ask for a review of the restrictions."

The government is reported to have decided on Friday that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will have to apply 30 days in advance for permission to hold any activities.

At a joint meeting of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Education, Social and Labour and Welfare Ministries and the National Security Council it was decided that the participation of foreign NGOs at meetings was work requiring an official work permit, to be applied for at least 30 days in advance.

The human rights conference organized by the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Thailand and scheduled to run from tomorrow until next Monday at Chulalongkon University, would be the first victim of the new requirement.

Police are also reported to have blacklisted the 11 East Timorese who were due to attend the NGO seminar.

Prathip said the government was on the wrong track. Thailand is a Buddhist country, but it is now supporting dictatorship in another country that has been engaged in a massacre.

San said Thailand would be under pressure from other countries if it did not support the basic principles of democracy and human rights.

"The seminar would only point to brutality in certain countries. They are not going to use Thailand as a base to launch an attack or to stock weapons to attack other countries," said San.

Arom said Prime Minister Chuan Likphai was given credit by US President Bill Clinton at the Seattle leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation countries in November for his government's decision to allow a group of Nobel Peace Prize recipients to enter Thailand to campaign for human rights in Burma.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday reiterated his stand that Thailand should not be used as a stage for attacking neighbouring countries, which should be allowed to resolve their own internal affairs.

"In accordance with labour laws, those who wish to organize an international seminar here have to ask for permission 30 days in advance, and this includes the entries for foreign participants to the seminar. Otherwise the government would consider these organizers as violating Thai law," said Prasong.

He said that if the seminar participants discussed "technical matters" it would be all right with the government, but the Foreign Ministry would definitely be reluctant to grant permission for conferences that would touch on political issues in neighbouring countries.

"It is not correct to use Thailand as a floor to discuss something that will affect bilateral relations," Prasong said.

Echoing Prasong, House Speaker Marut Bunnak said the government imposed restrictions on the seminar because it was concerned that the conference would affect bilateral relations.

"Any government would be reluctant on this issue because it is (the government's) policy to support the protection of human rights, but at the same time it has to oppose any movement using the country as a base to attack neighbouring countries," he said.

He believed the government had considered the matter carefully, and had taken a responsible decision.

In a direct affront to Prasong, fellow Phalang Tham MP Suthin Noppkaket yesterday voiced opposition to the government's restrictions on the conference, saying it was tantamount to curtailing freedom of expression.

"I believe it is incorrect for a democratic country such as Thailand to stop the seminar, and the government should review its decision," Sutin stressed.

He added that the house committee on human rights will put the issue on its agenda soon as possible.

In May, Philippines President Fidel Ramos was pressured by the Indonesian government to ban all foreign participants attending the first Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor in Manila.

Human rights groups say East Timor is the worst case since World War II in terms of the proportional loss of population.

Reportage on Human Rights Activists

Government Action Threatened

BK2007071694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Government confirmed its tough line yesterday against allowing human rights activists to meet in Thailand to discuss problems in Burma and East Timor by threatening legal action against anyone who violates the law.

The five-day gathering of the South East Asia Human Rights Network [SEANET] hosted by the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organisation in Thailand [CCHROT] due to begin today remains in limbo as the organisers have still to find a venue for the meeting.

As of late last night, they were still trying desperately to find a place for the meeting.

The CCHROT originally planned to use Chulalongkon University but the university denied access under pressure from the Government. The organisation then opted for the Asia Hotel, only to be told by the management it had received a request from certain phuyai [senior official] not to accommodate the group.

CCHROT chairman Khothom Ariya said yesterday the meeting may have to be postponed if a venue cannot be found.

Plainclothes police were sent yesterday to monitor the movements of a group of foreign human rights organisation members at an apartment block in the Pathumwan area.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, in confirming the policy not to allow the use of Thai territory for attacks on its neighbours, denied his administration was reneging on its policy to promote human rights.

"We must place the national interest before anything else while upholding the rights and freedom of all," he said.

Mr Chuan said that, unlike the visit by a group of Nobel Prize laureates last year, the SEANET members were here to attend a meeting and this required them to seek official approval 30 days in advance under the Thai labour law.

The Nobel Prize laureates were allowed to enter Thailand because they were not here for a meeting, he said.

"Thailand has no policy to allow people to use Thai soil to attack our neighbours like Burma and Indonesia with whom we have good relations."

The Premier said the Government had assigned Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri to meet with the representatives of non-governmental organisations to sort out any differences they may have.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said he would try to meet with the NGOs today.

Government sources said the Foreign Minister told the Cabinet yesterday efforts had to be taken to prevent the meeting because the gathering may have an adverse impact on the ASEAN Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok.

The Foreign Ministry has been informed Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas may decide against attending the ASEAN meeting if the SEANET meeting is held in Bangkok.

Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said legal action would be taken if members of NGOs violate the law.

He said they should not do anything which could cause problems for Thailand.

Special Branch Police Bureau Assistant Commissioner Yothin Matthayomnan said police had been instructed to intervene and make arrests if the activities of NGO members threaten national security and the country's international relations.

Permanent Secretary for the Interior Ari Wongaraya said he had received the names of 14 East Timorese blacklisted from attending the human rights meeting and the list had been forwarded to the Police Department for further action.

Pol Maj-Gen Yothin said the 14 had been declared persona non grata and would not be allowed to enter the country on whatever grounds.

Mr Ari said SEANET should be careful because the Government has a clear policy not to allow the human rights conference to discuss problems in Burma and East Timor.

He said although the majority of participants at the conference were Thais, the topics to be discussed may cause problems with Thailand's good relations with neighbours.

"This may violate the law," he said.

A ministry official said the Interior Ministry would take legal action against the NGOs under the labour law on foreigners and by accusing the Thais of supporting illegal foreign labour should the organisers insist on going ahead with the meeting.

The authorities have already placed Burmese students and anti- Rangoon movements under surveillance to prevent them engaging in political activities which may harm the ASEAN ministerial meeting.

Thailand has invited the State Law and Order Restoration Council to send a representative to the meeting as guest of the host country—a move strongly opposed by Burma's pro-democracy movements.

The source said the Interior Ministry has asked Rat Buri Governor M.R. Kamlunthep Thewakun not to allow 165 Burmese students to leave a holding centre to engage in protests in Bangkok during the ASEAN Ministers' Meeting from July 22-28.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said it was inappropriate for the NGOs to hold a conference during the ASEAN meeting even though Thailand is a democratic country and supports freedom of expression.

He said the NGOs should consider the benefits to, and image of, the country.

"They should consider a more appropriate time to hold the conference," said Mr Surin.

The Deputy Foreign Minister said the convening of the human rights conference after the ASEAN Ministers' Meeting depended on the issues to be discussed and the atmosphere in the country.

"If it is a campaign, there should be no problems. But if they criticise neighbouring countries, they should also consider the image of our country."

Mr Surin said the NGOs should try to understand the delicacy of the problem after being asked by the Government not to hold the meeting.

He said he did not know if discussions at the conference on East Timor may lead to problems.

Two Special Branch police officers turned up at Thai Mansions opposite the National Stadium yesterday afternoon to ask for a list of people planning to attend the SEANET conference staying at the apartments.

The appearance of the policemen created panic among some participants from Hong Kong and Malaysia, and one called Magsaysay Award winning lawyer Thongbai Thongpao for help.

One officer said he was assigned to monitor the activities of the participants and to find out the venue of their meeting.

Editorial Criticizes Government

BK2007073594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Tragic About-face on Human Rights"]

[Text] In February last year, the government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai won worldwide praise when it refused to bow to pressure from China and allowed the

Dalai Lama to enter the country to join a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates in calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Now, nearly 17 months later, it appears that the moral justification and show of conscience upon which this foreign policy was based have vanished. The resolve to stand up against human rights violations has also wavered and been sacrificed on the altar of ASEAN solidarity or, in plainer words, the need to save the face of a participating country, Indonesia, at the forthcoming ASEAN foreign ministers' meet.

The timing of the conference on human rights and development organised by the Thai NGOs [Non-Government Organizations] with participation from their counterparts from Southeast Asia to coincide with the ASEAN foreign ministers' meet may be inappropriate and invite suspicion about the motive of the organisers. But the Government's ban against the foreign NGOs by invoking the labour law which requires the organisers of the forum to seek permission from the authorities 30 days in advance is simply overreacting despite the fact that the legitimacy of the ban itself is questionable. On top of that, the police manhunt for the foreign delegates already in the country will further cast the Government in a negative light because of its treatment of the human rights activists as if they were criminals with a price on their heads.

Time flies and things change. But aspirants for true democracy and human rights had not expected this government to change that much—from a government which once embraced human rights as an inalienable right of all individuals to a government which sought to silence voices against human rights violations; from a government whose rise to power owed much to the dedication and support of democratic aspirants to a government which sought to antagonise the human rights activists.

Now that it is at the pinnacle of power, the Government may feel it does not need the support of the NGOs to survive politically in the same manner in which it virtually ignored the repeated calls for constitutional and political reform by all the pro-democracy groups. But by discarding the Vienna World Declaration on Human Rights that this Government adopted last year, particularly Article 13 which states "There is a need for states and international organisations, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, to create favourable conditions...to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of human rights", the Government seems to have sent the wrong message to the world declaring, in effect, that its pledges and words are not to be treated seriously.

The meeting on human rights and development will provide the other aspect of the problems facing this region that the ASEAN foreign ministers may be reluctant to discuss, simply for the sake of ASEAN solidarity. But these questions, such as the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and the absence of democracy in Burma, are as important to the peace and prosperity of this region as with the other social, economic and political issues on the agenda. The problems will not simply go away if ASEAN countries bury their heads in the sand and pretend they do not exist.

Jakarta may feel too embarrassed to have the East Timor issue discussed while the ASEAN foreign ministers are meeting here in Bangkok. But it must be reminded that the plight of the Timorese and the repression which is still going on in Timor by the Indonesian occupation forces which, in the very first place, have no legitimate right to be there, should be given a higher priority than Jakarta's embarrassment.

Instead of seeking to silence the voices of conscience against the foreign NGOs, the Government should have politely told Jakarta or SLORC that freedom of expression is accepted here provided that it is done peacefully and does not jeopardise public order and good morals. As such, the Government will do them a favour by reminding them of the moral responsibility and conscience which seem to have gone missing.

Alas, it is a great pity that our Government chose to become like one of them.

Editorial Assails Handling of Coup Suspects

BK1907125894 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 19 Jul 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Overdoing It"]

[Text] Over two weeks have passed since the arrest of 14 Thai people on charges of involvement in a coup attempt in that country, who just went to Cambodia to try their luck in various jobs. However, the allegation against these people has remained vague in the eyes of the world and Thailand, Cambodia's neighbor.

The 14 Thais have been victims of fabrication by the Cambodian Government spread by the mass media, particularly the paper ASAHI SHIMBUN, alleging that they and the Thai Armed Forces were involved in the coup attempt. The allegation has strongly damaged the reputation of the Thai armed forces and the Thai Government .

No one could explain the plot concerning the 2-3 July coup attempt better than Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and his former colleague Prince Norodom Chakkrapong. Chakkrapong has been charged with masterminding the coup, and he has been allowed to leave for political asylum in Malaysia.

A series of fabrications was involved to implicate the 14 Thais to tarnish Thailand's reputation, including their allegedly being arrested together at Chakkrapong's residence. The fact is, they were arrested elsewhere and taken to a hotel.

Even the Thai ambassador to Phnom Penh was denied due access to the 14 detained Thais. Dr. Krasae Chanawong, chairman of the Thai House Foreign Affairs

Commission, was the only person in his delegation visiting Phnom Penh to be allowed to see the unluckly Thai detainees.

In any event, the Cambodian Government stated recently that it has not formally charged the 14 Thais and is merely detaining them for questioning. The Thai Government and the Foreign Ministry should do something to protest the Cambodian Government's action against these innocent Thais.

Since the news broke about the alleged coup attempt, there has been no evidence to substantiate the alleged involvement of the detainees in the aborted coup against the Phnom Penh leadership.

Therefore, the Cambodian Government's detention of the innocent Thais for questioning amounts to deprivation of their freedom. The action is excessive and strongly violates human rights.

Reportage on Khmer Rouge Situation Continues

Weapons Warehouses Dismantled

BK1707120594 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 17 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Chanthaburi—The warehouses used for stockpiling Khmer Rouge weapons and ammunition have been quietly dismantled and the land is being offered for sale.

A military officer said the warehouses were dismantled and the weapons and ammunition removed two weeks after a police force, led by Police Director General Pratin Santipraphop, staged a raid mistakenly believing that the arms were smuggled into the country from Cambodia.

It was not known where the weapons were sent to and to whom. Left behind the scene were some empty ammunition cases and food cans.

A villager said the Khmer Rouge guards had also disappeared. He said the warehouses used to be guarded by Thai soldiers and the guerrillas and villagers were warned not to venture too close.

Villagers who live in the neighbourhood of the warehouses have been told the 70 rai plot of land in a rubber plantation where the warehouses were situated are up for sale at 50,000 baht per rai.

Rear Admiral Trirat Chamanan, commander of Chanthaburi-Trat Task Force, only said that the raid of the warehouses was a "misunderstanding".

He complained that Thailand had always been accused of assisting the Khmer Rouge by other countries.

"But if they were us and have a common border with Cambodia, they would understand us," he said, adding that the guerrillas, if they have nothing to eat and are hungry, would rob Thai villagers.

"Who will take responsibility?" he asked. adding that the accusation has always been a difficult problem for authorities in the field.

Meanwhile, a senior provincial official predicted fierce fighting inside Cambodia in the next two months after the end of the rainy season.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said Cambodian government forces had recently been strengthened with the arrival of seven MiG jets, 15 helicopters and 120 tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

In addition, he said two batches of Cambodian soldiers, each numbering about 1,000, had received military training in Indonesia .

With the arms buildup and better-trained troops, he predicted that the Phnom Penh forces would, this time, mount a multi-pronged offensive against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas near the Thai border.

Ban Urged on Trade

BK1907113494 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 19 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "National Interest"]

[Text] Thailand and Thai military leaders have made vigorous denials of support for the Khmer Rouge, which has now become an outlawed group in Cambodia. However, allegations have continued. Lately, Thailand has been accused of supporting an aborted coup attempt in Phnom Penh, and 14 Thais have been detained for questioning.

It is gratifying that the interrogation by Cambodian Government officials reportedly failed to link the Thai Government or the Thai Armed Forces in the coup attempt. Hun Sen, the second Cambodian prime minister, has confirmed that there was no involvement by the Thai Government, but he noted that there might be participation by private Thai citizens.

The allegations of Thai support of the Khmer Rouge have come from reports by the foreign media, the Cambodian Government, private organizations, and even a speculative article by a former U.S. envoy to Thailand. These allegations have made Thailand appear suspicious.

A recent panel discussion at the Foreign Correspondents Club appealed to the Thai Government to ban trade along the Thai-Cambodian border between the Khmer Rouge and Thai businessmen. Among those on the panel were Kraisak Chunhawan, former adviser to the prime minister, and a FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW correspondent.

The panelists suggested that the government allow teams of the United Nations or other international organizations to observe the Thai-Cambodian border situation. Such an action by the government would demonstrate

Thailand's sincerity and alleviate skepticism by the international community over Thailand's attitude. It will also enhance Thailand's image.

According to a reliable report, there has not been foreign support, particularly from China, for the Khmer Rouge, which has formed a shadow government in Preah Vihear. The main source of the Khmer Rouge income comes from trading activities along the Thai border. A ban against these trading activities would weaken the Khmer Rouge and force it to seek peaceful settlement of the confict.

We hope the Thai Government will seriously consider the suggestion by the aforementioned panelists for the sake of confidence of the international community and peace in Cambodia, which amount to a national interest that is more important than the interest of any specific group. Thailand cannot escape the allegations merely by making denials.

Minister Views Cooperation with Spain, Italy

BK1807141894 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak today received the Spanish defense minister, who is on an official visit to Thailand. Reporting to afterward, he said a memorandum of understanding was signed on logistical supplies between the armed forces of both countries, a starting point in military cooperation. He said a working group will be set up to study about cooperation, especially between the two navies, which have already entered into cooperation in ship building and helicopter manufacturing. Thailand also wants to learn about shipbuilding techniques from Spain.

Asked about the progress in the deal to buy G-222 medium transport planes from Italy for the Air Force, Gen. Wichit said there should be a conclusion in the deal soon. He said the air force chief had been trying to complete the negotiations and forward the results to the cabinet for approval. However, the Air Force could propose that the entire deal be scrapped if there was no success in negotiating with the trading partner about prices. A final decision rests with the cabinet. Gen. Wichit said that he is doing his duty as defense minister in looking after the needs of the armed forces and forwarding their requests to the cabinet for approval.

Police Seek To Arrest Laotian Rebel Leader

BK2007024194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] The arrest of Laotian right-wing rebel leader Gen Vang Pao and his aide, Gen Thonglit Chokbounphet, is sought on charges they endanger Thailand's national security.

Crime Suppression Division [CSD] police yesterday asked the Interior Ministry for the arrest warrant. It was lodged with the office of the ministry's inspector-general Maj Sirot Suwannakhin, by CSD deputy commander Chumphon Manmai.

Pol Col Chumphon was told a decision would be made today on whether the warrant would be approved, ministry sources said.

The police claim the rebels breached national security by inciting Hmong refugees in Thailand to rise against the Laotian government and by "engaging in activities detrimental to internal peace and order.

The Laotian generals, believed to have been in exile in the United States since the communist victory in Laos in 1975, have been accused by the Thai military of using Thai territory as a base for subversion against Vientiane.

In its complaint to the CSD in February, the Thai military claimed Gen Vang Pao's Lao United Independent Front and Lao United Independent Army had used Thai territory to build up arms and manpower to topple the Vientiane government.

The movements were active along the Thai-Laotian border in Chiang Khan district of Phayao, and Thung Chang and Tha Wang Pha districts of Nan.

The military said the activities, if allowed to continue, would adversely affect the Thai-Laotian relations and could result in armed hostilities by Pathet Lao troops against Thai border villagers.

Interior Ministry sources said the request for the warrant was based on a complaint from the military and was to show that Thailand did not support the rebels.

Gen Vang Pao and his aide secretly entered Thailand several times in recent years, using forged passports to conceal their identity, according to intelligence obtained by the ministry.

ASEAN Urged To Review Burma's Suu Kyi Case

BK2007084994 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jul 94 p A6

[Editorial: "ASEAN Cannot Ignore Suu Kyi's Detention"]

[Text] Today marks the fifth anniversary of the unlawful detention of 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. On July 20, 1989, Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) was placed under house arrest by the Burmese military junta, called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc).

"Slim and slight in physique, determined in spirit, and overpowering in intellect, the towering figure of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has haunted the Burmese military regime ever since she returned to the country in 1988," writes Kanbawza Win in "Daw Aung San Suu Kyi—A Burmese Perspective".

The emergence of Aung San Suu Kyi at the very centre of the Burmese struggle for human rights has in a large part been due to her being Aung San's daughter.

Tragic implications

Aung San was the architect of modern Burma, and his assassination on the eve of independence in 1947, along with the cabinet of the transitional government he headed, had tragic implications for the country. This paved the way for the military [to] take over power in 1962 and establish, without free and fair elections, a system based on a single socialist party.

Aung San today has become a martyr and a powerful symbol of Burmese freedom, and his legacy has made Suu Kyi an appropriate symbol of the people's legitimate rights and aspirations.

In his nomination speech before the Nobel Committee in Oslo, Vaclav Havel, the president of the former Czechoslovakia said: "Aung San Suu Kyi cannot be silenced because she speaks the truth and because her words reflect basic Burmese and universal concepts."

In Burma, the truth that Suu Kyi represents exposes the atrocities of the tyrannical Slorc. The NLD won the May 1990 elections but have been prevented by the Slorc from assuming power. With the military junta firmly in power, Burma is now ruled with an iron hand, perpetuating a climate of fear and repression in the country.

Aung San Suu Kyi has made it clear that she stands politically where she stood in 1989 on the eve of her arrest, for a truly democratic Burma. By that she meant and still means civilian rule by the leaders who have been elected freely and fairly under laws made by parliament. Also she believes political rule belongs to the people, and the army must be under government control and unable to disrupt the constitutional process once in place.

World leaders and other influential figures fighting for freedom and democracy are standing with her, leaving no doubt that if there is to be a peaceful solution to Burma's problems, she must be involved and her views taken seriously.

Slorc's powerful chief, Lt Gen Khin Nyunt, announced a week ago his readiness to meet with Suu Kyi. Whether Khin Nyunt breaks his promise once again is yet to be seen.

In February, during the visit of US Congressman Bill Richardson—the first non-family member allowed to see Suu Kyi—Khin Nyunt reportedly said he was willing to engage in talks with the NLD leader. Soon after Richardson left Burma, the Slorc chief denied saying he wanted to meet her.

Asean, at its annual summit in Bangkok on Friday, will have to address its "constructive engagement" policy with the Rangoon regime. Currently, constructive engagement has failed to make the Slorc less brutal and the sad fact is that human rights abuses are still being carried out by the regime.

Desired results

A glimmer of hope lies in a statement Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri made last Friday. He explained that though ASEAN will continue to pursue the policy of constructive engagement, "it will however bring about the [wanted] results, that is to integrate Burma into the world community so that it takes measures to improve its political, economic and social situation, which will be beneficial to the Burmese people under a democratic system."

Aung San Suu Kyi is the only leader who can speak for the Burmese people. If ASEAN is really keen to improve the political situation in Burma, the regional grouping must pressure the Slorc to release her and all other political prisoners. Only then can a true dialogue in an environment of equality take place between Suu Kyi and the military junta.

In her five years under house arrest, Aung San Suu Kyi has shown the world she is willing to sacrifice her personal life for the cause of restoring freedom and bringing a better life to the Burmese people. For that reason, ASEAN must listen to the voices calling for a free Burma.

Demonstrators Urge Release of Burma's Suu Kyi

BK2007090494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jul 94 p A8

[Text] Anti-Rangoon demonstrations calling for the release of 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi took place amid tight security surveillance yesterday morning outside the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok.

Participants urged the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to ban the attendance of Burma at the upcoming Asean Ministerial Meeting (AMM) from July 22-23 and to prevent Burma's participation as an Asean member until after democracy and human rights are restored in the country.

Meanwhile, Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok late this afternoon to take part in the AMM as a guest of Thailand. He will attend the opening and closing ceremonies and a reception dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

While protesters were shouting for Suu Kyi's freedom from house arrest in Rangoon, the Burmese Embassy diplomatic staff and their families were holding a religious ceremony inside the embassy compound to commemorate Martyrs Day, the day when Suu Kyi's father, Burma's independence hero Aung San, and other key Burmese leaders were assassinated in 1947 at the height of their independence campaign. The Burmese embassy lowered the flag yesterday to mark the significance of the occasion.

The protests yesterday were part of simultaneous worldwide campaigns calling for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, who completed her fifth year under house arrest yesterday, and for the ruling Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) to transfer power to an elected civilian government.

Ken Kawazaki, who led three other members from the Burmese Relief Centre in Japan to the protest yesterday, said similar peaceful rallies were taking place in several world capitals-such as Bonn, London, New Delhi, Tokyo, and Washington.

He said Burma lobby groups worldwide have been in close contact and that an anti-Slorc "chain letter campaign" which was launched last year had become a big success with overwhelming support from around the world.

Kawazaki said his centre in Japan had received about 110,000 letters from supporters from over 50 countries and that all of them were later sent by registered mail to the Burmese embassy in Tokyo.

In a press release, the Burmese Relief Centre also denounced Burma's national convention, whose participants were hand-picked by Slorc, as "simply a transparent relations exercise" that had not "on any matter of substance".

It also condemned the Asean and Thai policy of "constructive engagement" towards Burma and deplore "the short-sighted greed that prompts" the policy, saying it "is not in the interest of regional stability or development to permit this proud country to be bled white by its own bloated military even as Thailand, Singapore and Japan wait to carve up the remains."

Spokesman Previews Talks With Burma

BK2007102694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Suwit Simasakun said yesterday anything "under the sun" would be discussed between Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his Burmese counterpart Ohn Gyaw.

Mr Suwit said other countries might wish to talk to the Burmese minister as U Ohn Gyaw is not here "uniquely" for Thailand.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong will see his Burmese counterpart in the capacity of the ASEAN Standing Committee, the spokesman said.

Thailand is acting with "good intention", with flexibility and is trying to make constructive engagement "meaningful and fruitful with tangible results", he added.

"We are going to talk about how to make this region a peaceful one and how we can make our endeavour through economic and social development in our own way," he said.

Pressure was not a way of obtaining results from Burma, he said.

Mr Suwit, asked whether constructive engagement focuses more on economic cooperation and trade with Burma, said:

"Capitalism is a contagious disease and an irreversible trend."

He also said every ASEAN country not only Thailand, had business projects within Burma. He pointed to large investments in the country by American and European investors.

According to Burma's Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, three ASEAN states—Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia—are among 16 countries of origin of foreign investors said to have invested a total of US$1,056 million as of March 16 this year.

Thailand tops the list with 18 projects worth $211.14 million. Singapore has 16 projects worth $107.61 million and Malaysia three projects worth $53.75 million.

Outside the ASEAN region, the United States is top with 10 projects worth $203.20 million, followed by Japan—five projects worth $101.14 million, Austria—one project worth $71.5 million, and Hong Kong—13 projects worth $58.36 million.

Other investors identified on the list include Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, France, Korea, Macau, the Netherlands and Britain.

Most of the money has gone into oil and gas, and hotels and tourism—respectively $381.09 million and $332.38 million, according to the report.

Mr Suwit said it would be up to the foreign ministers to decide if the ASEAN meetings would make any reference in a document to mark the fifth anniversary today of the detention under house arrest of Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Asia's got the Asian way of doing things. Mentioning it in any particular document, would that help or would that worsen things?" he asked.

"The priority for Thailand during the next 10 days is to look after the delegates. We are going to talk about the future of this region."

Suu Kyi was put under house arrest on July 20, 1989 and five years is the limit under Rangoon's law for holding a political prisoner without trial.

An AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE report quoting state-run Radio Rangoon said a Malaysian economic mission arrived in Rangoon Monday on a visit to discuss bilateral and economic cooperation with Burmese leaders.

Editorial Praises Al-Arqam's Activities

BK1807103394 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 18 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Do Not React With Excessive Suspicion"]

[Text] No one is surprised to hear that the report and photos of a meeting between Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Ustaz Ashaari Muhammad, leader of the Al-Arqam religious movement, irritated Malayasian religious organizations and the prime minister. Later, the Malaysian side accused Al-Arqam of using Thailand as a military training ground for its members.

This is because Al-Arqam is considered a rebellious organization defying the Islamic faith of the majority of Malaysian citizens. Its organizational structure, however, is economically and socially very strong. As more and more people are joining this movement, Malaysian leaders fear that one day Al-Arqam might decide to enter politics and strive to seize the power from them.

The reactions from Malaysian political and religious leaders probably have caused uneasiness for Thai Muslims, who happen to come into contact with Al-Arqam. The question of what Al-Arqam really is now has risen among the general public.

Some Thai newspapers view Al-Arqam with suspicious eyes because they always jump to the conclusion that any Muslim organization must be extremist and prefer violence like the separatist movement which is dying in the southern region. However, the name of the southern separatist movement often is used to press for personal gain. The separatist movement does not really exist.

There has not been any evidence so far to prove the accusation that Al-Arqam has any connection with the separatist movement or is involved in any activities which are detrimental to Thailand's security.

What Al-Arqam has been doing during the past 15 years in Thailand is reviving the Islamic faith. Al-Arqam members go directly to the houses of the not-so-pious Muslims and persuade them to observe correctly religious tenets or the so-called Sunnah.

Instead of endangering Thailand, the Al-Arqam movement behaves like a social worker who encourages and enlightens Thai Muslims to earn their living honestly and cooperate with the government to launch vocational programs. They can get along with people of other faiths as well. It is necessary to learn more about them if we are going to deal with them.

Al-Arqam is similar to the Black Muslim Movement in the United Sates. Whether the Black Muslim Movement is recognized as a genuine Islamic organization or not is not the point. But the movement has been successful in upgrading the status of black Americans and attracted more and more members. Black Muslims have become acceptable among the whites. The U.S. Black Muslim Movement has become rich from starting businesses such as maritime shipping ventures. Its members work hard and never cause any problems in American society.

Al-Arqam can be like the Black Muslim Movement in Thailand. Everyone who is in charge of national security is requested to study the whole matter thoroughly and refrain from making more accusations against them.

We want to see the Al-Arqam movement reveal itself to the general public so the people will know who they are and what they are doing. You should not leave the Thai people in doubt and suspicion. As a result, they will look at you with suspicion and distrust. Some people might do wrong simply because they have been pressured to do so.

Rice Exports Drop During First Half of Year

BK1907130094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jul 94 p 26

[Text] Thailand's rice exports in the first half of this year dropped by 21,354.87 tons or 10 percent on those for the same period last year.

But earnings from these exports rose by 4,733.11 million baht or 33 percent on those for the same time last year.

Board of Trade Rice Committee chairman Saman Ophatsawong said Thailand from January to June this year shipped out 2,130,441.64 tons of rice, worth 29,006.71 million baht against 2,151,796.51 tons worth 14,273.60 million baht in the same period last year.

The average export price for the January-June period this year was 8,921.49 baht a ton against 6,633.38 baht in the same period in 1993.

Japan was the largest buyer in the first six months of this year with 535,137 tons, followed by South Africa (150,641 tons), Iran (128,290 tons) Hong Kong (122,853 tons), USA (119,889 tons), Singapore (111,265 tons), Senegal (100,386 tons), and Malaysia (86,402 tons).

Vietnam

Officials Agree on SRV ASEAN Membership

BK1907133294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] ASEAN senior officials have agreed to admit Vietnam to the organization. These senior officials met in Bangkok on Monday to prepare an agenda for the upcoming ASEAN foreign ministerial conference to be held on Friday in Bangkok.

A spokesman said: Regulations for Vietnam's admission will be read. Meanwhile, KYODO said they have received copy of the draft ASEAN joint statement saying that the organization will speed up the process to admit Vietnam and Laos to the organization. KYODO reported on 18 July that ASEAN foreign ministers agreed that Vietnam is allowed to join the ASEAN and the issue will be discussed at the coming foreign ministerial conference.

Envoy in Russia Steps Up Cooperation Activities

BK2007110394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] According to a Moscow-based correspondent of VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, in the last several days our ambassador to the Russian Federation carried out some diplomatic activities aimed at consolidating the cooperative relations between Vietnam and Russia and continuing the good results of the official friendly visit to the Russian Federation by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Ambassador Ho Huan Nghiem met with two representatives groups of the Russian Parliament and discussed cooperation between the two countries as well as the two parliaments. The Russian Parliament affirmed the invitation to the Vietnamese National Assembly chairman to visit Russia.

The ambassador also held a meeting with the mayor of Moscow, Mr. (?Lushkov). The two sides exchanged views on the restoration and development of cooperative relations between Hanoi and Moscow. Mayor (Lushkov) highly valued Vietnam's achievements in the renovation process and its performance in the transformation to a market economy. He expressed his wish to strengthen cooperation with Hanoi, particularly at this stage, in exchanging visits of trade delegations of the two cities to explore cooperation possibilities. He held that the two sides should meet to exchange reform experiences. He also revealed that Moscow has a demand for Vietnamese goods, especially foodstuffs and consumer goods.

The Vietnamese Embassy in the Russian Federation has assigned its representatives to visit Krasnoyarsk province in Siberia to study the cooperation opportunities between Vietnam and this province.

Moscow Mayor Promotes Relations With Hanoi

BK2007063594 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 20—Mayor of Moscow Y. Luzhkov highly appreciated the achievements and experience Vietnam gained during the shift to market economy, and expressed his wish to strengthen the cooperative ties between Moscow and Hanoi, initially through exchange of visits by business groups to study possibilities for cooperation.

Occasion was a meeting with Vietnamese ambassador to Russia, Ho Huan Nghiem, who earlier had talks with members of Russian parliament to compare notes on the cooperation between the two countries in general and the legislative bodies in particular.

Also in the meeting with the Vietnamese Ambassador Mr. Luzhkov pointed to the need for the two capital cities to view their experiences in renovation. He made known that Moscow had great demand of Vietnamese goods, especially consumer goods.

Foreign Minister Views Regional Cooperation

BK2007082194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam by BANGKOK POST correspondent Suphaphon Kanwirayothin, in Hanoi on 16 July]

[Text] Q: The Philippines has pledged strong support for immediate ASEAN membership for Vietnam. What adjustments has Vietnam made to prepare for immediate membership?

A: After Vietnam's accession to the Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, and becoming an observer of ASEAN, it was invited to take part in meetings of six cooperation committees of ASEAN and in five projects of functional cooperation.

Vietnam's full membership will be an inevitable result of this process.

That conforms with the growing tendency in the region, as well as in the rest of the world, towards cooperation and regional integration.

With the assistance of ASEAN, Vietnam is preparing actively to become a full member of ASEAN.

Q: The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting is supposed to come up with a road map towards Vietnam's full membership. Is Vietnam prepared to meet the requirements expected to be put forward?

A: The timing of Vietnam's full membership will be subject to discussions between Vietnam and ASEAN. Of course, Vietnam will have to fulfill requirements seen as necessary by ASEAN.

So it remains to be seen whether it's a road map, or it's just a matter of procedures that have to be gone through by Vietnam to attain full membership.

I believe this process will not require much time. The exact date of full membership will be subject to mutual agreement between Vietnam and ASEAN.

I'd like to underline the term "soon". You may also realise that on ASEAN's part, it has been stated recently that they want to welcome Vietnam as a full member of the association soon.

Q: Your view on the "SEA 10" initiative?

A: The foreign ministers of all 10 Southeast Asian nations will attend the 27th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. To us this is a new phenomenon. Of late, there have been ideas and suggestions on Southeast Asia's 10 countries.

It would be good if we could move to cooperation among the 10. It would be in line with the current trend in the region, and would create a good environment for each nation as well as the whole region to embark further on the route to development.

Q: Your view on Burma's participation in the ministerial meeting?

A: Burma is a country in this region, and one of the principle aims of ASEAN is to strengthen cooperation among Southeast Asian countries on the basis of respect for self-determination of each nation. That is one of the primary principles of the Bali treaty.

On the basis of this, we can work together and enhance cooperation which will facilitate development for everyone. And that of course, serves the interests of the whole region.

Q: Does Vietnam support ASEAN's constructive engagement policy towards Burma?

A: Between Vietnam and Burma there is a long tradition of friendship and cooperation. We are living in an era when cooperation has become a necessity, especially regional cooperation. It will be good if every nation in this region, regardless of what (stage of) development they are in, can contribute somehow to regional cooperation. If we can mobilise the potential of every nation, that will help to intensify the economic development of the region.

Cooperation can take many forms, but the purpose is to serve the economic development of each country and of the region.

Q: What concerns are important to Vietnam in the ASEAN Regional Forum?

A: At the forum, we will work with our colleagues to find measures to help ensure and strengthen peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

It is our concern and in our interest to see that the principles enshrined in the Manila Declaration of July 1992 on the South China Sea are implemented. The disputes in the South China Sea must be settled through peaceful negotiation. All parties concerned should exercise self-restraint and not do anything to upset the status quo, not use force or threaten to use force. The issue should be settled among the parties concerned.

If the matter concerns only two parties, it should be settled between them. If it involves more than two, it must be settled among all those involved.

Every nation and party concerned should show full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other, including territorial waters, in accordance with international law.

Q: Do you consider the situation in Cambodia a regional security threat?

A: What has happened in Cambodia so far is the internal affair of Cambodia. As a neighbouring country in this region, we want Cambodia to enjoy peace and stability so that it can be rebuilt.

I believe that everyone of goodwill will share that desire. We wish to see a peaceful, independent, neutral Cambodia that enjoys friendship with all other countries.

To ensure peace and stability in Cambodia, all the signatories of the Paris peace agreements should commit themselves to honour its provisions.

Q: Does Vietnam think Cambodia is not yet stable?

A: Not yet, due to the activities of the Khmer Rouge, and other problems.

Q: To what extent does it threaten regional security?

A: We should not allow the instability in Cambodia to affect the stability of the region. That's why I'd like to repeat that all the signatories of the Paris agreements should strictly abide by the provisions.

Q: Which provisions?

A: It's public knowledge. The Khmer Rouge are an example of the breaching of the agreements. In order to prevent the Khmer Rouge from aggravating the chaos in Cambodia, it is necessary that the signatories of the Paris agreements abide by the provisions.

Q: What will you discuss with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher?

A: If we meet in Bangkok, we will discuss measures to accelerate the process of normalisation between the two countries.

Q: Is normalisation of relations with the US going too slowly?

A: It's a gradual process.

Editor's note:

This interview was conducted before the US State Department announced in Washington that Secretary of State Warren Christopher would be represented by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott at the ASEAN talks.

General Vo Nguyen Giap Arrives in Havana

BK1707143494 Hanoi VNA in English 1340 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 17—General Vo Nguyen Giap arrived in Havana, Cuba on July 15, to attend the celebration of the 41st anniversary of Cuba's Rebellion Day (July 26), at the invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap was met at the Jose Marti International Airport by the first deputy minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Major General Jukio Casas Regueir.

Commentary Hails Relations With Cuba

BK1907125294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] General Vo Nguyen Giap of Vietnam arrived in Havana on 15 July for a visit to Cuba and to attend the 41st anniversary of the Cuban people's uprising 26 July 1953. On this occasion, Radio Voice of Vietnam would like to review the traditional relations between Vietnam and Cuba.

In its foreign policy to befriend with all countries in the world, Vietnam continues to maintain, consolidate, and develop its traditional relations with friendly countries, including Cuba. The Vietnamese people will never forget the days during the resistance against the U.S. aggressors, the Cuban party, government, and people rendered support and treasured assistance to Vietnam in the period: For Vietnam, Cuba is ready to donate blood. Therefore, now when Cuba is meeting with difficulties due to natural calamities and the U.S. embargo, the Vietnamese people have organized many fund-raisings to assist Cuba and to share wealth and woe with the Cuban people.

Over the past time, many high-level delegations from both countries have exchanged their visits, strengthened mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries. Worthy of note was the visit to Cuba in early July 1993 of the high-level party and state delegation headed by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The Cuba visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet was an important significance. The visit, first of all, responded to the sincere sentiments and desires of the Vietnamese people to maintain the solidarity with the just cause of the Cuban people, and to prove that the Cuban people never be isolated. At the talks between the two parties, states, and governments, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and President Fidel Castro highlighted the traditional friendship and solidarity between Vietnam and Cuba which plays an important role in the success of the revolution in each country. The two sides expressed their wills to continue to consolidate and develop their relations in all fields.

During the visit, Vietnam agreed to provide Cuba 10,000 tonnes of rice every year with favorable conditions. Vietnam is also ready to exchange experience in renovation with Cuba. Lieutenant General Casas Regueiro said: The presence of General Vo Nguyen Giap at the 41st anniversary of the Cuban people's uprising on 26 July was a great encouragement for the Cuban people. Lieutenant General Casas Regueiro was speaking at the reception given in Havana in honor of General Vo Nguyen Giap.

Article Urges Action on 'Urgent' Problems

BK1907160794 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Jun 94 pp 1,4

[Article by Bui Dinh Bon: "Concentrate Efforts on Successfully Resolving Urgent and Pressing Problems"]

[Text] Over the past several years, the international situation has developed very complicatedly and quickly and caused new difficulties and disadvantages to the revolution in our country. The reactionary forces inside and outside the country have intensified their counterrevolutionary activities in a bid to deprive our party of its leadership role and overthrow our regime. Through their "peaceful evolution" strategy, they have tried by all means to smear the party, promote political pluralism and a multiparty opposition system, instigate the masses, and sow disunity among party members and between the party and the population... The shift to a multisectoral commodity economy in keeping with the market mechanism and the broadening of diplomatic relations have exerted a positive impact as they make the economy develop more dynamically and effectively. As a result, the economy is developed, the people's living conditions are improved, and the party's leadership is firmly maintained. Nonetheless, these moves have also given rise to more social vices and new negative phenomena, especially social injustice, egoism, pragmatism, and readiness to do anything for money... These factors create a very new and complicated environment and constantly affect the thinking, sentiments, and psychology of cadres, party members, and the people. That situation has raised new problems concerning the party's leadership and the task of building, renovating, and revamping party organizations.

We have the right to be proud of the fact that faced with the above-mentioned complicated developments, our party has clearly demonstrated its political soundness, persistently adhered to socialist goals and ideals and the spirit of independence and sovereignty. It has also remained creative and sensitive to the situation, adopted timely measures to renovate and revamp the party, directed our people in overcoming many great difficulties and helped the renovation undertaking move to get on the right track. It firmly maintained political stability and saved the economy from major upheavals while at the same time effecting changes for the better in many other fields and creating more sources of material strength. Nevertheless, we still cannot be satisfied with the past achievements that our party has scored in the framework of the renovation. These are but initial results. To be on par with its duties and worthy of its role as a vanguard brigade of the working class and a true representative of the interests of the working class, laboring people, and the entire nation, our party must make sustained efforts to renovate and revamp its organizations. Drastic, resolute, and thorough revamping and renovation work can be done through the application of a serious, practical, realistic, and effective action program.

To effect drastic changes in party renovation and revamping work aimed at consolidating the masses' belief in the party, we must concentrate efforts on implementing urgent and pressing tasks with good quality and high efficiency as follows:

Corruption is like a malignant tumor in the body of the party and state. Resolute measures must be taken to remove this malignant "tumor." Failure to do so will make it impossible to restore the people's trust in the party and state and will also lead to the danger of losing the party's leadership and the collapse of the regime. Therefore, all indications of light punishment, tolerance, and protection for individuals and organizations that "get involved" in corruption cases or enjoy favors and privileges are unacceptable and unpardonable. It is necessary to deal with them in a serious and open manner and to the full extent of law. As Lenin put it, it is necessary to remove those corrupt elements and "inside enemies" from the party and state apparatuses, no matter what positions they may hold. It is necessary not only to take administrative or party disciplinary measures but also to confiscate assets obtained through corruption and force the culprits to pay compensations for "losses" in terms of money, property, land...that result from their mismanagement or deliberate attempts to misappropriate public funds.

In my opinion, for the campaign against corruption to yield results, we must work out a new anticorruption mechanism. It is necessary to select pure, honest, and impartial cadres, party members, and people imbued with fine revolutionary sentiments who are highly professional, possess solid legal knowledge, and gain the people's trust. Administrative organs should create necessary conditions for them to perform their duties effectively. It is necessary for the party and state to work out a proper policy toward them and take measures to ensure safety for them and their families and protect their property while they are on duty and after they have completed their mission. In this way, they can have a sense of security and concentrate efforts on this difficult, complicated, and dangerous "battle."

While striving resolutely, thoroughly, and seriously to curb corruption, we must promote true democracy and maintain firm discipline. Efforts must be made to oppose formalistic democracy, indulgence in internal struggle, and unscrupulous criticism and self-criticism. We must strive to uphold firmly the principles of collective leadership and democratic centralism while ensuring unity and unanimity within the party. It is necessary to stop at once such prevailing phenomena as violation of the principle of democratic centralism, lack of democracy, disregard for discipline, and fraudulent implementation of party statutes from the top to the bottom levels. It can be said that the principle of democratic centralism has not been seriously and correctly implemented; that it is being ignored and belittled.

Within the party, opportunist and degenerate elements have emerged as well as those who flatter and those who adhere to pragmatism and sectarianism. This has encouraged an alarming rise in departmentalism, localism, and sectarianism, thereby diminishing the party's prestige and leadership role to the extent that some basic party organizations in the localities have lost their ability to lead the people. As a result, we must strive to purify the party and enhance the militancy of party members while consolidating party organization at the grassroots level. We must resolutely remove degenerate and opportunist elements from the party as well as those who attempt to form cliques and become involved in corruption. Every party member and basic party organization must strive to maintain the party's vanguard role firmly; set a good example in all tasks, big and small; and match their words with deeds.

Efforts must be made to streamline the party mechanism from the central to the grassroots levels while striving to enhance its efficiency in carrying out various activities. Cumbersome mechanisms and such phenomena as bossism, arbitrariness, ignoring public opinion, neglecting state law, bureaucratism, authoritarianism, prerogativism, and failure to fulfill commitments—if allowed to prevail—will damage the party's close ties with the people and will eventually distance them from the party. This is a danger we must not belittle.

The party is a part of the social classes. As a result, it must strive to enhance ties with the social classes in order to strengthen its relationship with the working people and the people at large. If the party fails to strengthen relations with the social classes, with the working people, and the people at large, it will lose its strength and will not survive. The party must act in a way that represents the conscience of the social classes, the nation, and the era. This conscience can be enhanced by having love for the people, attending to the people's daily lives, understanding people's livelihoods, realizing the people's difficulties and hardships, and knowing how to share the people's concerns and distresses. This conscience can also be manifested through revolutionary ethics; the qualities of thrift, honesty, righteousness, and impartiality; and the practice of "working hard for the public, and enjoying life after them." The party must be an incarnation of humanitarianism, it must be realistic and altruistic, and it must maintain its generosity toward mankind. It must show its ability to ensure justice and rationality while manifesting its wholeheartedness and sacrifices in this regard.

Our party is a struggling party; it is a party of action. Its conscience and intelligence are manifested through its actions. In implementing the current renovation to build a civilized and modern society, our party's good deeds have been manifested through its daily concrete tasks which have ensured the working people's vital interests. As Uncle Ho said: "When the people do not have enough salt and rice to consume and sufficient clothes to wear, the party must find ways to meet their requirements; when children do not have enough schools, the party must comply. In short, the party must be ready to carry out all tasks—whether it is building socialism and communism or its efforts to ensure better daily meals for the people." The party's action must be manifested in all aspects of social life. It must resolutely overcome mistakes and shortcomings, strictly and seriously oppose corruption and prerogatives, and firmly lead the Vietnamese revolution to overcome various obstacles and advance toward the brilliant destination.

The decisive factor for the party in fulfilling these tasks is that it must consistently maintain and enhance its working class stand and characteristics, firmly follow Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, and take the objectives and ideals of the working class as its own. If the party diverts or strays from these objectives and ideals, it will become a sanctuary of privileges for some people. As a result, the party will lose its militancy, become degenerate, and eventually disintegrate, as experienced by parties in many countries.

Spokesman on Buddhist Leader's Suicide

BK1907151894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi, July 19 (AFP)—Hanoi confirmed Tuesday the suicide of a Buddhist leader in the southern province of Vinh Long, but insisted he took his life "for personal reasons" and not in protest against the government, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The dissident Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV), in a statement received here Monday, said that the venerable Thich Hue Than, a bonze [senior monk] at the Ngoc Phat pagoda, had set himself ablaze last May in protest against Hanoi's refusal to allow religious freedom.

The government spokesman also denied Tuesday that police carried out arrests following the self-immolation and denounced the "slanders" directed at the government by the church.

The UBCV, in a statement released in Paris, said the self-immolation was reported by another unidentified monk "who escaped from prison July 16."

The UBCV has refused to join the official church founded by the authorities in 1981.

Army Paper on Need To Implement Resolution

BK1707134194 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Concentrate Efforts on Successfully Implementing the 1994 Socioeconomic Goals and Making Preparations for 1995."]

[Text] The Ninth National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] has successfully concluded its fifth session. After nearly a month of active work with a high sense of responsibility and urgency, the National Assembly discussed and adopted a law code and seven draft laws, including the revised law on selective service; ratified the United Nations' 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea; assessed the implementation of the 1994 tasks set forth by the National Assembly's resolution; and decided on a number of other important issues.

There is an urgent need for an application to everyday life of the legal documents adopted by the National Assembly. To this end, we must take uniform measures to keep the people fully informed of the contents of the laws and sub-laws as well as organize implementation by localities and sectors and services concerned, thereby contributing to renovating the organization and operating procedures of the state apparatus a step further, building compact local administrative organs based on the functions set for each level, enhancing the quality of army-building work by improving citizens' national defense awareness, creating a legal foundation and other favorable conditions for investment, and amending the right of land use to meet the new requirements of the industrialization and modernization program.

The deputies discussed the Government's report on the implementation of the National Assembly's Resolution on the 1994 tasks in the first half of the year and defined the orientations and measures to carry out tasks for the latter half of the year. In implementing the National Assembly's resolution, our compatriots and combatants have accelerated the movement to practice thrift in production and goods consumption and devoted efforts to overcoming difficulties in daily life, generating jobs, and actively participating in the fight against social vices. On the one hand, we need to develop changes for the better on the socioeconomic front, prevent prices from undergoing major fluctuations, increase the export index, firmly maintain public security and social order, and step up diplomatic activities. On the other hand, we must make efforts to overcome very great difficulties, primarily the serious imbalance of the state budget and the complicated development of wasteful spending, corruption, and smuggling that continue to be a painful issue for society.

Cadres and members of the armed forces are determined to make efforts to satisfactorily fulfill the combat preparedness-related tasks, enhance their political background, fight against the enemy's "peaceful evolution" scheme, safeguard territorial integrity in the hinterland and sea and island areas, defend the regime, help disseminate and implement the contents of legal documents in general and the revised law on selective service in particular, set a good example for the people to follow in this respect, and together with the entire people, consolidate the all-people national defense system and build the people's armed forces so that they can make a worthy contribution to the drive to lead the country to a new stage of development through their participation in combat, work, and production.

Government Meets With Province Officials

BK2007110194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] On 18 July, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and representatives of ministries and sectors under the management of the central government met with leaders of southern provinces and cities. The meeting took place in the Thong Nhat Conference Hall in Ho Chi Minh City. The participants focused on two key issues, namely, further improvement of administrative procedures and measures to successfully implement the socioeconomic development tasks for the last six months of 1994, particularly problems concerning financial and land management, housing development, and the control and prevention of social evils.

In his opening speech, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed the need to improve administrative procedures, regarding this move as a task of special significance. The prime minister asked the delegates to contribute views on administrative procedures for areas of operations that need to be improved at an early date and the contents of administrative procedures of ministries, sectors, and localities that need to be improved immediately. He urged the participants to concentrate efforts on discussing practical measures to mobilize sources of capital at home and abroad with a view to supporting credit services and investment projects.

Also on the first working day, Minister and Chief of the Government Office Le Xuan Trinh briefed the delegates on the results achieved by the two teams in charge of investigating the status of administrative procedures in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi Municipality. The investigation covers seven major fields of activities.

On behalf of the Social Evils Control and Prevention Steering Committee, Minister of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare Services Tran Dinh Hoan presented a detailed report on the results of the campaign against social vices in the southern provinces and cities.

More on Meeting

BK1907153494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] On 13 July, the government held a working session with leaders of Quang Nam-Danang Province on the course of socioeconomic development to be taken by the province during the period 1994-95.

The session was chaired by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

In attendance were many comrades, including ministers, deputy ministers, and representatives of various branches and sectors of the central authority.

Comrade Mai Thuc Lan, secretary of the provincial party committee, and Comrade Truong Quang Duoc, chairman of the provincial people's committee, reported on the essential traits of the local socioeconomic situation during the first six months of the year and on tasks to be carried out in the last six months of the year.

After the representatives of a number of ministries, sectors, and the two deputy prime ministers, Phan Van Khai and Tran Duc Luong, delivered their speeches, in which they suggested substantive socioeconomic development guidelines and measures capable of turning Quang Nam-Danang Province into a true socioeconomic, political, and national defense center of Central Vietnam, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet concluded by saying:

Generally speaking, the party organization and people of Quang Nam-Danang have striven hard to implement their socioeconomic tasks in the first six months of the year. As a result, a relatively high and comprehensive growth rate has been achieved.

Touching on guidelines for the period ahead, the prime minister said: On the basis of clearly determining its position as the center of the entire region, Quang Nam-Danang must, as an immediate task, perfect its general socioeconomic plan for the period until the year 2000. It must also carry out planning for Danang city and for every single area. On this basis, it must clearly determine its socioeconomic development strategy with rational mechanisms and substantive programs for each area for the period until the year 2000. For urban areas, the province must concentrate on developing industrial, artisan, and handicraft production in the direction of giving priority to certain spearhead sectors such as shipbuilding and ship repair, seafood processing, support services, and tourism.

Quang Nam-Danang has sufficient conditions to build various industrial complexes. In the immediate future, the province must promptly clear the floorspace of those locations already chosen to attract foreign investment and to mobilize on-site funds and funds of the compatriots of Quang Nam-Danang natives living abroad. It must create favorable environment for major industrial complexes to come into being in the future.

Regarding the rural lowland areas, along with effecting a change for the better in crop patterns and sowing schedules, the province must pay appropriate attention to developing branches and occupations, gradually carry out rural urbanization area, and vigorously develop industrial crop cultivation and animal husbandry in the midland and mountain regions in conjuction with efforts to carry out Project 327, which is designed to do away with poverty.

The prime minister emphatically said: In building the infrastructure, we must be fully aware that this is in the interest of not only Quang Nam-Danang but also of the entire region.

Dealing with some specific issues, the prime minister urged Quang Nam-Danang, which is characteristic of being the communications hub of in the entire region, to carry out more satisfactorily the antismuggling campaign. Vietnamese citizens found stockpiling and marking foreign-made goods, regardless of the channels through which these goods were illicitly imported into Vietnam, will have their goods confiscated and their business licenses revoked. In serious cases, they will be prosecuted.

During his stay in various central Vietnamese provinces [as heard] for talks with their leaders, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a working session with the Danang City Party Committee and People's Committee; went on an inspection tour of the 500-kv Danang transformer station; and visited the Non Nuoc tourist site and the acient Hoi An township.

Chamber of Commerce Chairman on Investment Law

BK1707065094 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Doan Duy Thanh, chairman of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, by Ngoc Dan; place, date not given]

[Text] [Ngoc Dan] Some people believe the law on the promotion of domestic investment has come too late in view of the requirements of our policy reform. What do you think?

[Doan Duy Thanh] The renovation of our national economy has been underway since 1986; that is, since the sixth party congress. During this time our state has promulgated many laws, in particular the law on foreign investment in Vietnam that was introduced in 1987. Over the years, this law has helped mobilize foreign investment.

Therefore, the enactment of the law on the promotion of domestic investment—which was only introduced recently—is regarded as a belated move in terms of the drive to renovate our national economy in recent years. Although it is belated, it has enabled our lawmakers to become familiar with various real issues, including the ideas and views of domestic investors, so they can draft new and more practical legislation to meet the demands and aspirations of domestic investors.

[Ngoc Dan] Comrade, is the law on the promotion of domestic investment recently passed by the National Assembly good enough to attract all sources of capital for national socioeconomic development?

[Doan Duy Thanh] Businessmen in various economic sectors as well as researchers and administrators contributed a considerable number of views regarding the law on the promotion of domestic investment. The drafting committee condensed the views contributed by the people before presenting them to the National Assembly. The National Assembly spent a great deal of time debating the draft of this law. In view of this working method and process, I believe this law has a firm basis to build confidence among domestic investors. Proceeding from this, the law will attract domestic sources of capital for investment in production and business. It is important that we enact the bylaws needed to substantiate this law. We also need realistic guidance from various sectors and echelons to enforce this law. This is the only way we can translate that confidence and appealing power into the reality of our socioeconomic life.

[Ngoc Dan] In your view, does this law present any worries for investors?

[Doan Huy Thanh] Every clause and article of the law on the promotion of domestic investment recently passed by the National Assembly was clearly debated. The point is how to explain every sentence and letter of that law and to ensure uniform understanding and enforcement of the law. This is the only way to appease investors' concerns. I would like to discuss two points in Chapter 2 dealing with guarantees and support for investment.

First, "the state will recognize and guarantee the right of investors to ownership of their legal property, investment capital, and profits." Do you understand the terms legal property and profits here?

Second, along with recognizing and guaranteeing the right of investors to ownership of their legal property, investment capital, and profits, the state may not nationalize their property. The state may only requisition it—with compensation calculated at market prices—for defense and security purposes or for the sake of national interests.

There are some points to be clarified here:
—What is the meaning of the terms defense and security purposes and national interests? If these terms are defined too generally, investors will not feel safe. Is it not true that everything the state does is for the sake of national interests or defense and security purposes?
—In laying down investment to build a business, investors will not only bring their material capital, or tangible capital, but also their brains, or intangible capital.

In reality, there are types of property whose face value is unremarkable but whose value in terms of brain work—intangible value—is substantial. In this case, how do we calculate the amount of compensation?

Therefore, I would like to repeat that the introduction of this law is very important, but it is even more important for us to explain the law, provide guidance, and direct the enforcement of the law.

On this occasion, I would like to bring something to your attention—the need for state management organs and the administration at various levels to respect Vietnamese business firms. It is necessary to adopt the correct attitude by giving fair treatment to various firms, including Vietnamese firms and firms with foreign invested capital, and especially Vietnam's medium-and small-size business firms. We must create the conditions for Vietnamese firms to concentrate their energy, efforts, and time on doing business. We must do away with red tape that causes inconvenience and actions that are unsuitable for the growth of business firms.

[Ngoc Dan] Thank you comrade.

Governor Views Development of Capital Markets

BK1707094494 Hanoi VNA in English 0623 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 17—'Vietnam's banking system has made great achievements in its control and management of the capital markets over the first six months this year, and the Vietnamese dong is gaining value,' said Mr Cao Sy Kiem, governor of the State Bank, in an interview with a VNA correspondent recently.

Mr Kiem said that in only a short time, the Bank for Investment and Development mobilised VND 100 billion from the housing construction savings, 80 per cent of which were mobilized in Hanoi and neighbouring provinces.

Meanwhile, savings in foreign currencies seemed to be more prominent in the southern provinces. In the first five months of this year, USD eight million were mobilized from the foreign currency-denominated long-term bank securities, more than 50 per cent of which came from the southern provinces.

The custom of putting the savings at one branch and withdrawing at any other branches is now becoming popular.

In the first four months this year, the Bank of Commerce and Industry achieved a turnover of more than VND 3.5 billion. Since the beginning of this year, the saving deposits have increased by 53 per cent bank securities by 28 percent and savings in foreign currencies by 38 per cent.

The inter-bank domestic currency market was set up since July 1993, but remains small. However, this markets has created initial circulation of capital among the banks.

Meanwhile, the emergence of a market for purchasing foreign currencies among the banks along with two centres for transaction of foreign currencies in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have created an inter-bank foreign currencies market. The transaction centre of the State Bank will issue the regulations on organization and operation of the inter-bank foreign currencies market, the regulations of transactions and will stipulate limits of the net foreign exchange exposure to the commercial banks aimed at bringing the activities of the banks in conformity with the international transaction principles.

According to mr Cao Sy Kiem, preparation is being made by the State Bank to introduce the stock exchange and treasury bill market in Vietnam.

The State Bank's proposed plan on the treasury bill market has been valued highly by experts from the International Monetary Fund. Legal documents and procedures for the opening of stock-market are being drafted.

Two courses on stock-market were held in Ho Chi Minh City with assistance from international organizations in the first half of this year. Under a project funded by the official development assistance of the U.K, two stock-training centres will be set up in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr. Kiem said that the capital demand for the development of the national economy was great but only a limited amount of medium and long-term loans was given to the country's economic sectors. The capital mobilized is not yet in step with the people's savings.

According to the bank statistics, undertaking the transaction at present are four state-run commercial banks, three joint-venture banks, 27 urban stock banks and 16 rural stock banks, two financial companies and more than 210 other credit institutions. In addition there are nine foreign banks which have opened representative offices in Vietnam.

In the first six months of 1994, a total sum of some 23 billion VND were mobilized by the state-owned and private financial institutions, an increase of 19 per cent as compared with the same period of last year.

To make the bank saving more attractive, said Mr Kiem, banks and other financial institutions shall be given a flexible interest rates structure in the coming years.

Economic Police Curb Smuggling, Tax Evasion

BK1807153794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] During the past six months, the economic police force has discovered 1,233 cases of violation to socialist assets throughout the country, causing damage worth 116.4 billion dong. During the same period, the police also solved 12,430 cases of smuggling, banned goods trading, tax evasion, and illegal business. The police also confiscated goods valued at more than 300 billion dong.

It is noteworthy that some people intentionally committed crimes through joint venture activities by transferring the ownership of state assets to individuals. There were 180 cases of this nature, which caused a loss of almost 64 billion dong or more than 50 percent of the damage caused by corruption cases.

A number of sectors and localities have set up new fees to collect money other than those specified by the state, such as at the customs offices of Quang Tri Province and Quan Hau District of Quang Binh Province. The police prosecuted 19 offenders who deliberately committed mistakes and confiscated hundreds of millions of dong for the state.

Violations to state property have also been found in activities to legalize smuggled cars, in real estate transactions, and in implementing social welfare policies.

During the same period, cases of foreigners taking advantage of joint ventures to carry out smuggling, tax evasion, and deception have been found in various localities.

Construction Ministry Reduces Expenditure

BK1707155994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Since early this year, the Ministry of Construction has reduced its expenditure by 9.7 billion dong thanks to the application of the new list on the cost of units of production. This figure represents 6.32 percent of the total cost of capital construction for the first six months of this year. The ministry has also carried out a thrift campaign and has saved more than 30 billion dong for the state.

The revision and amendment of the set quotas and standard and the simplification of procedures in paying fees have saved 2.5 percent of direct expenditure [chi phis truwcj tieeps] and 3 percent of material expenditure.

The ministry has carried out the investigation and control work over business activities of various units. It has canceled all irrational and inappropriate expenditure to reduce production costs, thereby increasing profit by more than 41 billion dong and collecting almost 11 billion dong in state revenue.

In 1994, the ministry will provide guidance to all units under its jurisdiction to save more than 100 billion dong and to procure 1,370 billion dong for the state budget.

Essay Reviews Hanoi's Socioeconomic Achievements

BK1807104294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Essay by Tran Thien Nhien: "Hanoi Looks Back Over the Past Six Months]

[Summary] "A striking point in the industrial production of Hanoi over the past six months is that its high growth rate continued to be maintained. The municipality achieved a production value of 783 billion dong or 47.7 percent of its annual target. This represents an increase of 22.9 percent over the same period last year.

"We are not so optimistic about this high growth rate because it is the result of intensive investment efforts made in the past years. In 1994, there has been a great shortage of funds. Many state firms have not had their funds allocated, including the amount of funds that represents 30 percent of their set liquid capital. Any shortage of money for intensive investment may endanger the growth of following years. The municipality has realized that idle money among the people is still considerable. It has not been able to mobilize this money because of the absence of appropriate policy structures and measures. The municipality has realized this problem and is seeking to iron it out, but results remain to be seen.

"Over 150,000 peasants in suburban areas have been given a loan of more than 300 billion dong to develop their production and to create material premises for the cause of doing away with hunger and reducing poverty."

Agricultural production continues to be vigorously stepped up in the direction toward affecting a change in the crop pattern and animal husbandry. A prominent trait is that the movement towards dairy cow farming has developed rapidly with the cow population, increasing by 64.3 percent. This is a correct course of action.

"In the field of trade and service, the total retail volume at the social market reached 4.384 trillion dong, thus increasing by 19 percent. The rate of price increase over the past six months was put at 5.9 percent. This testifies to the continued stability of the people's living standards and their growing buying power.

"In foreign economic relations, there were an additional 31 development-oriented investment projects licensed with a total capital of $220 million."

One of the great difficulties encountered in foreign economic relations at present is the shortage of qualified management cadres with adequate professional and foreign language knowledge to deal with foreign countries equally in various joint ventures.

"There are indications of companies setting up joint ventures in areas where they are not experienced. For example, a fishing company has set up joint venture to build an international sport center and a machinery plant has established a joint venture to build a luxury tourist hotel, and so forth. Thus, it is easily understandable if these joint ventures have been operating at a loss." This practice is been widely known, but no actions have been taken so far.

Despite difficulties, Hanoi succeeded in building an additional 38,000 [figure as heard] square meters of housing. This is an encouraging sign, but it is certain that the municipality will be flooded after each heavy rain.

Teaching of a sense of communal life for urban people is something which must be done by every country. "The most painful thing at present continues to be the anarchic situation in construction and in urban management, which is underscored by the bad practices of encroaching into public land, carrying out illegal construction, and buying and reselling land to earn profits."

In a briefing for the municipal people's committee on the situation regarding urban planning for the municipality until the year 2010, a senior engineer claimed that objective reasons and not other machinations had led to a delay in the announcement of an urban planning scheme. But, in reality, this delay was caused by red tape. We must delineate the managerial duties of the administration at various levels in order to avoid the phenomenon of passing the buck around since the prime minister issued a resolution on administrative reform and Mr. Dinh Hanh, vice chairman of the people's committee, also has spoken over Radio Voice of Vietnam about a determination renovate working methods and simplify administrative procedures to lessen inconveniences for the people.

"Public order and security were said to have been firmly maintained, but there remains hundreds of dangerous criminals drifting in society. As soon as one criminal was arrested, another one emerged. Social vices, though faced with fierce control, remain unabated. Poverty-fighting and charity efforts have become a mass movement, but not much has been achieved in reducing the number of poor people. The gap between the rich and the poor continues to exist."

The municipality can be likened to a living body with millions of cells, both new and old. The new-born cells are always more numerous and stronger than the vanishing old ones. This is a scientific basis for us to build and consolidate our confidence.

More Telephone Exchange Centers Installed

BK1807134194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] To create conditions for the fulfillment of the target of one telephone for every 100 people by 1995, the Post and Telegraph General Department have striven to install more telephone exchange centers in various districts. As of June this year, 320 out off the 527 districts have been installed with telephone exchange centers, or 100 centers more than the previous year.

The new centers provide 72,600 new telephone lines, thereby increasing the number of telephones in use to 351,000. If we add this number to the 50,000 lines of different channels being used by official agencies, the number of telephone lines throughout the country will be 401,000, or an average of 0.55 telephones for every 100 people.

While efforts are being made to install more telephone exchange centers, the transmission network has been digitalized and has developed vigorously. A series of level-one transmission lines with high data-handling capacity varying from 34 to 140 megabits have been installed in various areas, such as the Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh city fiber-optic transmission line and the signal control system of the North-South 500-kilovolt power line. Thanks to the digitalization of the national telecommunications network, the number of overseas telephone channels have reached 1,248 and the number of overseas and domestic calls has increased by twofold as compared to the corresponding period last year. Post and telegraph services have also been improved and expanded. During the past six months, more than 2.2 million kg of parcel post were delivered, or 38 percent more than the corresponding period last year.

Production Slows Down Due to Latex Price Rise

BK2007081994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Text] In recent Months, the prices of unprocessed rubber latex have soared in the world market. This has caused many corporations, business establishments, and private dealers in our country to compete feverishly to buy for export or speculative hoarding purposes. In Ho Chi Minh City, many mediators have cornered the latex market to meet foreign demand or hoarded the commodity in the hope of earning big profits from resales to establishments in need. Plants and corporations have had to buy latex at market prices to maintain production. Since early June, they have had to pay 40-60 percent more than at the beginning of the year. However, they could only buy amounts that were well below their actual production requirements.

Over the past two years, the Sao Vang and Da Nang Rubber Corporations have invested more than 40 billion dong in their car and motorcycle tube and tire production lines. However, they can no longer bring into full play the capacity of their production lines due to latex shortages. The Sao Vang Rubber Corporation has obtained a four-billion dong bank loan to make a two-month advance payment to latex purchasing and processing establishments. Yet, only nine tons of latex were delivered to the corporation last June, whereas their minimum production demand stands at nearly 300 tons per month. Since July, the corporation has had to temporarily halt its bicycle tire production line. More than 500 workers have lost their jobs and received severance pay.

Australia

Editorial Assesses Environment Minister

BK1407160594 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 30 Jun 94 p 20

[Editorial: "Faulkner and Green Policy"]

[Text] Where is Senator Faulkner really going on environmental policy? Like Senator Evans, the new Environment Minister seemed to be preparing the way for a major climb-down on the issue of greenhouse emissions.

However, it is not clear whether Senator Faulkner is ready to apply a similarly realistic approach to other important areas of his portfolio.

On the issue of greenhouse gases, Senator Faulkner was less straightforward than Senator Evans. Senator Evans told THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW that Australia may refuse to take on greenhouse gas reduction commitments if the economic impact on Australia was too high.

The option of not accepting climate change commitments had been endorsed by Cabinet.

Senator Evans went on to (correctly) observe that Australia's contribution to the level of greenhouse gases was "really miniscule".

There were hints of this pragmatic approach in what Senator Faulkner had to say. Australia would remain active in implementing the Framework Convention on Climate Change "consistent with the well-known caveats" and keeping "all policy options open to consideration".

The Government's most important caveat is of course that Australia would do nothing "that would have net adverse economic impacts nationally or on Australia's trade competitiveness, in the absence of similar action by major greenhouse-producing countries".

Whatever policy options are open to consideration, it is a fair bet that they add up to the same bottom line: Australia will not make major cuts in its contribution to the level of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, the cost of meeting the proposed "stabilisation" target of 1990 levels of emissions by the year 2000 would be about $9 billion a year. The likely cost of meeting the Government's far more ambitious interim planning target is claimed by the Business Council of Australia to be more than $40 billion.

The preferred Australian position is to do a deal on "burden sharing" which recognises the difficulties faced by "energy-based" economies such as Australia.

But, regardless of what deals are on offer, the Australian electorate is not going to pay a huge economic cost in order to make a tiny difference to an environmental "problem" the significance of which is still the subject of genuine scientific dispute.

On other environmental issues, the direction of policy is less obvious.

For example, Senator Faulkner stated his commitment to the policy objective of phasing out woodchip exports from native forests by the end of the decade.

Perhaps he could do little else, since the objective was adopted by the Federal and State Governments at the 1991 Special Premiers Conference.

However, the policy is subject to wide differences of interpretation. Many environmentalists and Government backbenchers choose to regard it as a commitment to virtually ban woodchip exports after 2000.

A less radical, and undoubtedly more correct, interpretation of what the Prime Minister and Premiers had in mind was a hope that the natural development of plantations and "value-adding" would see the decline of woodchip exports from native forests.

There is a vast difference between the two. Federal Government intervention, under pressure from the environmental lobby, has already done considerable damage to the woodchip industry and in the process has probably retarded the development of both plantations and value-added industry.

The Industry Commission last year reported that the Federal system of export licensing had restricted the ability of sawmillers to dispose of sawlog residues as woodchips.

Chips can account for more than one-third of the volume of hardwood sawlogs. The restrictions on exports can therefore undermine the financial viability of value-adding sawmilling activity.

By holding down the domestic price of wood, the export restrictions are also likely to have had the unintended consequence of discouraging investment in plantations.

The further use of export restrictions and other intervention to try to engineer the development of value-added industries and plantations will impose further unnecessary costs on the industry and the wider economy.

Indeed, the forest industry had good reason to fear increased Federal intervention in the name of the environment.

Senator Faulkner's policy statement appeared to signal a more stringent approach to the logging of old-growth forests and wilderness areas.

The forest industry may be about pay the cost of the Government's attempt make up to the environmental lobby for the backdown on greenhouse.

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